



Princeton library



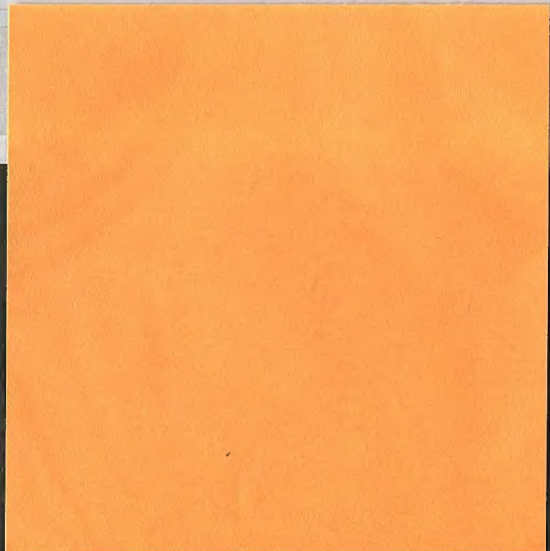


1995-

2000











2001



2001 Artwork By  
TRAVIS CURR



2001 Artwork  
By Travis Carr



















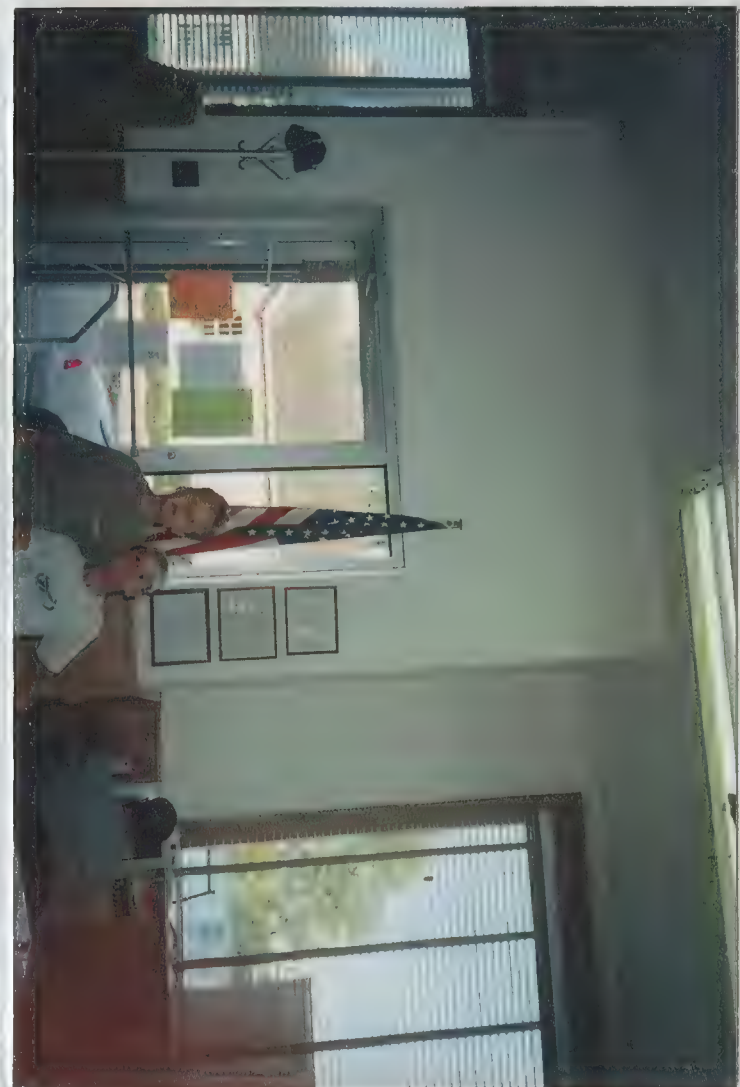








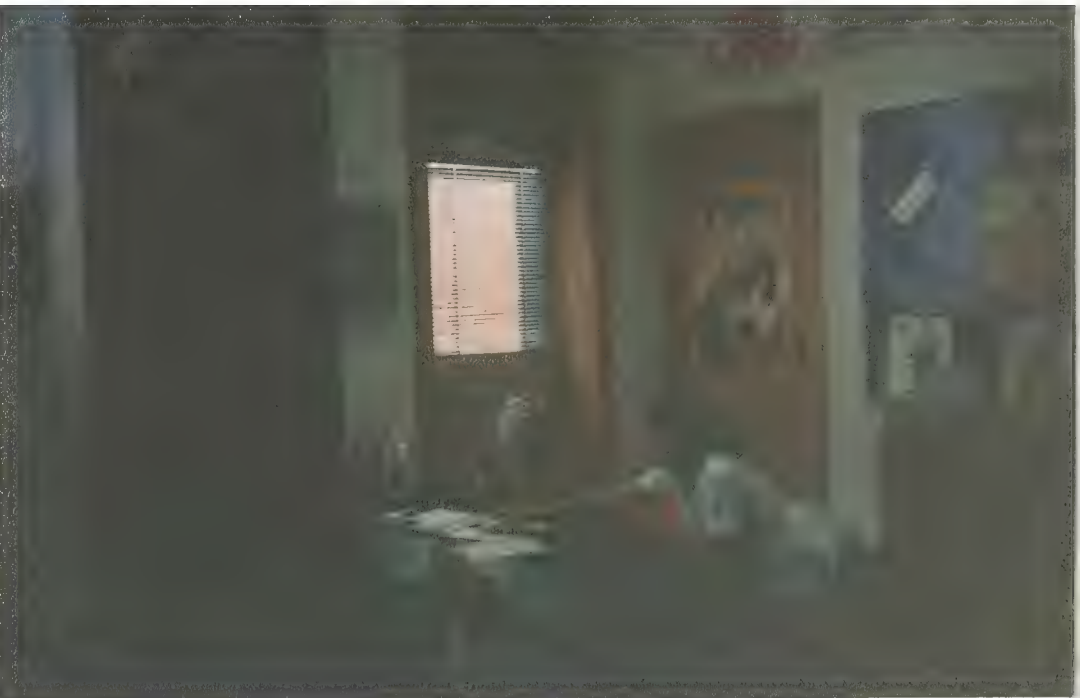




















Photograph of firefighters and children in front of a house.







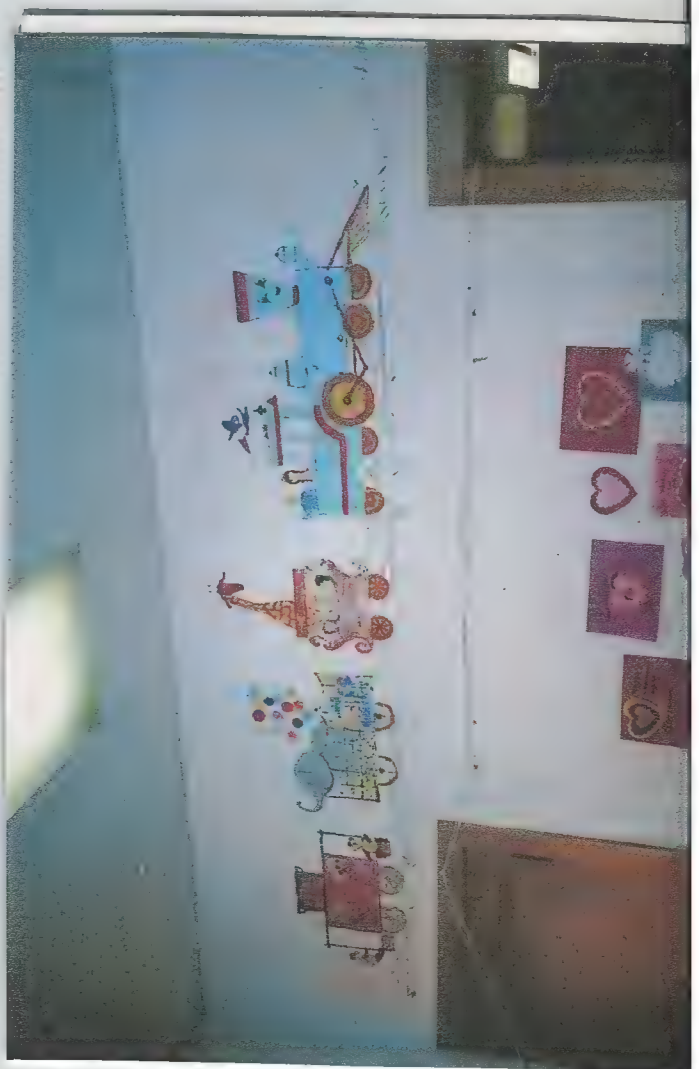
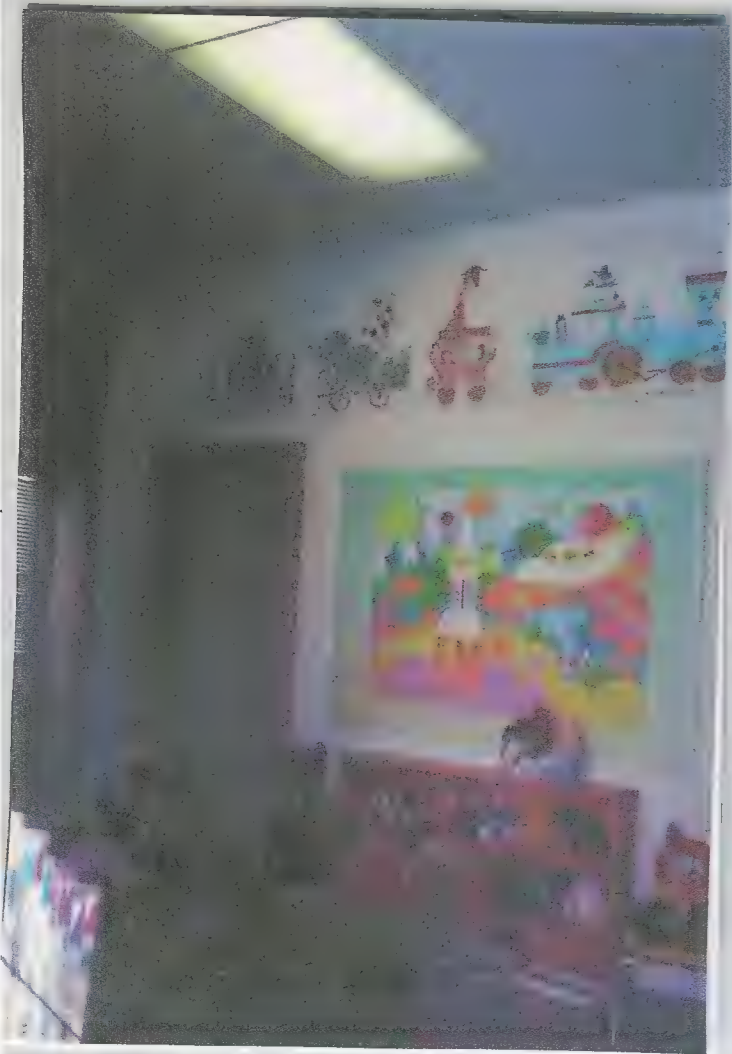






















Childrens room Mural  
painted by Penne Miller  
2001





































# 'History Room' coming to Princeton library

You could be a part of Princeton's history. Penne Miller of the Friends of the Princeton Library is seeking contributions for a book recounting the community's history. The accounts will be part of a "History Room" which will be added as part of a planned expansion project at the library.

Phase III of the library improvement project calls for renovation of the "back half" of the building to house a general meeting room, kitchenette facility and historical collection. If you would like to help, or you have something to contribute to the new book, contact Miller at (319) 289-5666.

Opening the back section of the library for public use is just the latest in a series of planned improvements and expansions of the facility, which was donated to the Scott County Library System more than a decade ago. The building was formerly a bank that had been in operation since 1908, according to Miller.

The Friends of the Princeton Library was formed to transform the old financial institution into a repository for books, rather than "bucks." Work done on the structure includes roof and furnace replacement, installation of a new front door, chimney repairs, and general carpentry work. To date, the Friends have invested \$14,272 to update the building and add furnishings.

The group has applied for a grant to purchase "comfort zone" and children's furniture, magazine racks and appliances to make the library more appealing and user friendly. Such additions are included in the Friends' Phase II plans.

The organization generally meets on the second Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the library. The public is invited to attend.

At its Sept. 1 meeting, the Friends adopted the following mission statement:

"The Friends of the Princeton Library dedicate ourselves to address the needs and promote the use of a public, cultural, educational and social establishment for our community. Our goal is to serve and continually improve the Princeton Public Library."





BILL WUNDRAM

## Small-town library needs a safecracker

Hardly a day goes by that I don't hear from some small town, like Wapello, Iowa, where a dozen folks gathered one day to slice about 20,000 noodles for a chicken and noodle dinner; or the ambitious people of Delmar, Iowa, wishing that I would visit their newly restored old railroad depot; or the parishioners at Colona, Ill., United Methodist Church, who are ordering all the good stuff that will go into their Oct. 2 hog roast.

But never, anything like this — a plaintive request from Princeton, Iowa, for a safecracker.

It's a good laugh, but the folks at Princeton's library are serious. There even is a reward.

It happens that the library is in the old Farmer's Savings Bank building. The bank had one of those giant walk-in vault doors, about a foot thick. All the money was removed when the bank put up a new building long ago, but the vault — of course — stayed.

That vault was a storage place for the library's seasonal paint, the library's only ladder and other necessities needed to keep a library in business.

Always, ALWAYS, everyone was careful NEVER to close the door.

It was inevitable. It has been slammed shut, and someone turned the handle.

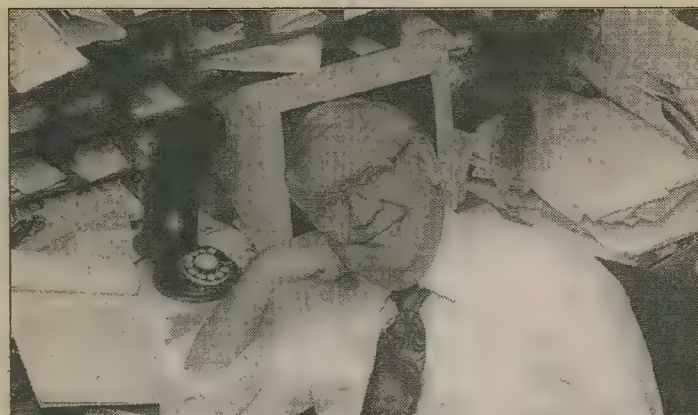
Glen Suiter, patriarch of the bank, was contacted. The vault has been unused for so long he had no idea what the combination is. The same for his son, Steve Suiter. A locksmith was called. He suggested combinations of dates to twist the dial, like 1 left, a right, for 1908, when the building was built and the vault installed. Also, birth dates or the founders, or the wives of the founders. Every series was tried without luck.

The library was told (now, get this) that it MIGHT be possible to work up a computer program that MIGHT unravel the archaic old combination, but that would take 40 hours (yep, hours) of computer time.

The library is looking for a safecracker, not one who would put a charge of nitro on the lock, but some foxy, light-fingered Raffles who could get the tumblers falling in just the right sequence.

A reward of \$50 is being offered to anyone who can crack the safe, but it's not the type of notice to put up at the post office. If you think you can solve the combination, call Jo Damron, the librarian, at (319) 289-4282.

I bet they're glad no one was inside that big vault when the door was slammed shut.



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We love our

Librarians!

especially

Jo ~~Jo~~!!

Penne's  
- Grand  
daughter

Anna I.











Scott County Library System  
215 N. 2nd Street  
Eldridge, Iowa 52748-1284

Phone: (319)285-4794

Fax: (319)285-4743

Mary Ellen Chamberlin  
Riverboat Development Authority  
212 Brady Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52801

September 24, 1998

Dear Mary Ellen:

I, as Director of the Scott County Library System and Registered Agent for the Scott County Library System Foundation, would be happy to act as the fiscal agent for the Friends of the Princeton Library should that group be successful in its grant application for "Phase II of Library Renovation for Princeton Library".

Thank you for your assistance with this project and with all of our Riverboat Development Authority supported projects through the years.

Sincerely,

Anne Conner, Director

~~AKG~~ - oops this is your copy, P

cc: Penelope Miller ✓

Penne,

I hope this is what Mary Ellen wants.  
Your grant ap. looks good. It will  
make such a difference for the patrons at  
Princeton. Thanks so much for all the  
time and effort to make it possible. Good luck!  
- Anne



# Branch News

## LeClaire

Storytime for pre-school age children is held every Thursday morning at 10:00 and 11:00. We learn finger plays, read stories, do crafts, and on special occasions there are snacks!

One Saturday a month we now have a "Make It & Take It" craft session. This is for children seven and up and we do more difficult craft items. In October we made a haunted house, in November a turkey table decoration and in December we'll make a Santa mobile. The December session coordinates with the "Christmas in LeClaire" weekend.

## Long Grove

We've had the good fortune to receive wonderful gifts this fall. Janice Hartwig and her family gave a memorial gift in Mark Hartwig's name. The donation includes a framed art print entitled "Fairy Tale" which depicts three little girls reading a book. The colors are wonderful in our new library! Their gift also included Isabel Bloom's statue of the little girl reading, thanks to a gift celebrating Richard and Pat Schrage's anniversary we have an Isabel Bloom "library angel" and a cash donation to use toward a study table.

The Civic League, which owns the Community Building, is drawing up plans to make all entrances and restrooms (including the library's) handicapped accessible in 1999.

## New Liberty

H.O.P.P.E.R. stands for: Helping Our Providers Promote & Encourage Reading.

H.O.P.P.E.R. will be visiting our local preschool owned and operated by Shari Meyer, a Branch Substitute. She has three preschool classes that will share H.O.P.P.E.R. this school year. This green frog hand puppet can go home with each child to visit and hopefully encourage reading within the home. A diary is included for the kids to share their experiences with the frog, as well as a disposable camera for their picture to be taken with the frog.

December 11, from 4-6, Norma Sievers, a Friend of the Library, will be sponsoring an open house as "Granny Claus". She and her husband, Glenn, bring a German-style A-Frame house to set up in front of the library and serve cookies, coffee and hot chocolate. The children are encouraged to tell "Granny" what they want Santa to bring for Christmas.

A tree is set up on a second story balcony as

well as one inside for the patrons to decorate with homemade ornaments. It should also be noted that Keith Jurgens, from Texas, also donates monetarily yearly for this event.

## Princeton

Come meet our new Princeton Librarian, Karen Peterson.

The Princeton Library has a very active Friends of the Library group that was formed when the Farmer's Savings Bank donated their old bank building to the Library System for use as the Princeton branch. The Friends have invested \$14,272 in the building to date to update the building and add furnishings. Improvements funded by the Friends include: roof and furnace replacement, installation of a new front door, chimney repairs, general carpentry repair, and all new carpeting installed.

Opening the back section of the building for public use as a comfortable and convenient meeting room and a local history room is the latest in a series of planned improvements by the Friends. Penne Miller, a Friend of the Princeton Library, is putting together the history room and is also seeking contributions for a book recounting the community's history. If you have anything to contribute, or would like to help, contact Penne at (319) 289-5666.

Another current project of the Friends is to make the library more comfortable for library patrons. A grant proposal for a "comfort zone" has been submitted that would purchase children's furniture, adult reading chairs and magazine racks for the library and appliances for the meeting room.

The Friends usually meet on the second Monday of the Month at 6:00 p.m. at the library.

## Park View

Story Time in December is Thursday, 12/3 - 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, 12/9 - 9:00 a.m. and Thursday, 12/17 - 3:30 p.m.

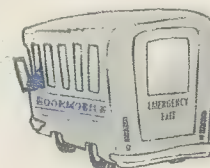
## Blue Grass

Please stop by the library and welcome the new Blue Grass librarian, Lynnette Sowell. Lynnette is looking forward to meeting you and helping you find the books and

## Bookmobile serves outlying areas

The Scott County Library System Bookmobile serves the areas of:

Panorama Park  
South Riverdale  
Carriage Place  
Hickory Hills  
Deer Valley  
McCausland  
Mt. Joy



Revelle's Addition

Big Rock

Plainview

Dixon

Maysville

Donahue

Woods & Meadows

and many more in these areas.

Please call (319) 285-4794 for a brochure or further information.

Outside of a dog,  
a book is a man's  
best friend.  
Inside of a dog,  
it's too dark to read.

— Groucho Marx

## Consider a gift to your library

Memorials, gifts and donations are always welcome and are a great way to honor a friend, relative, or a special occasion.







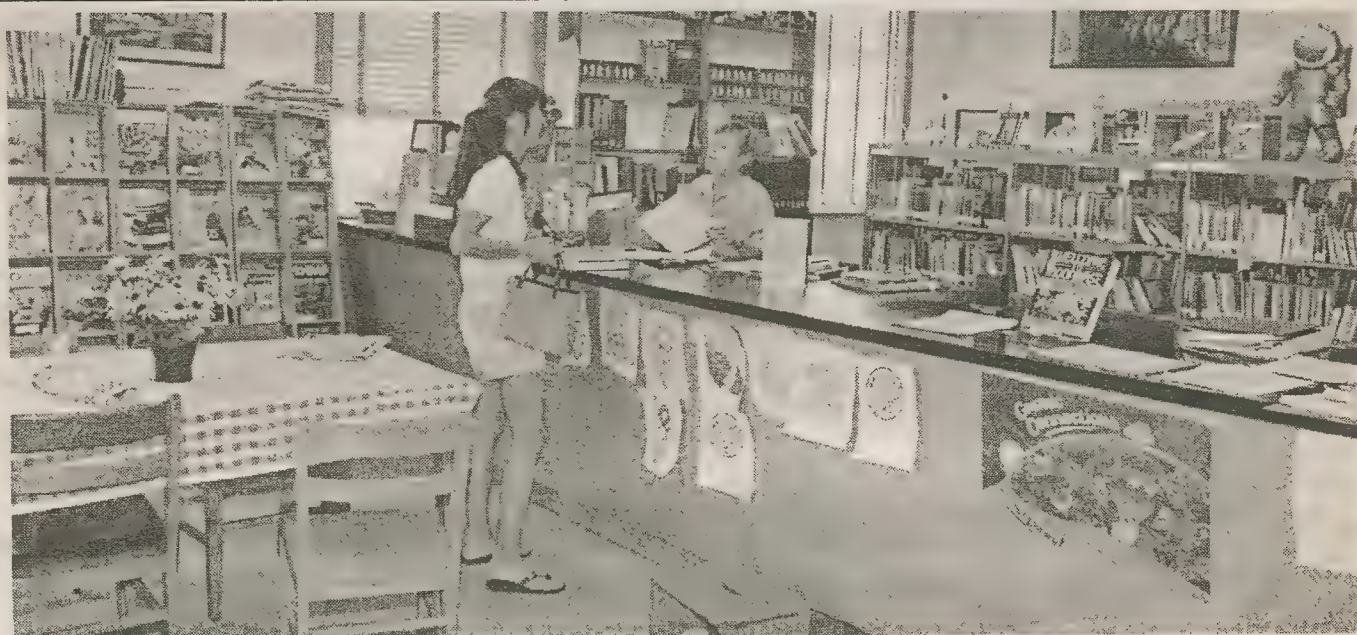
Jessie Farrell











**Library Takes Shape** - Jo Damron, librarian at the Princeton Library, helps a patron check out materials. With riverboat grant money and countless volunteer hours, the library has been undergoing a major overhaul to make the facility more inviting to area residents. Among the more recent improvements is the creation of a community room which is available for small gatherings.

NSP Photos by Barb Geerts

# Princeton's 'comfort zone'

■ **RDA grant, sweat turn historic building into public library**

by Barb Geerts

Everyone has a comfort zone.

In Princeton, folks find that "zone" at the local library.

The branch of the Scott County Library System has added "comfort zones" — cozy nooks with comfy chairs and coffee tables — as part of what has been a lengthy process to convert the historic Farmers Savings Bank building into an inviting facility for both youths and adults.

With up to 700 people walking through the branch's doors each month, the project appears to be a success.

But it couldn't have happened without some dedicated volunteers — and some grant money from the Riverboat Development Authority, says Penne Miller, a Friends of the Princeton Library member and substitute librarian.

"There's a lot of 'sweat equity' that's gone into this," she noted.

The work was done in three phases. Phase I included installing a new furnace; putting on a new roof and doing some other exterior work; installing shelving; and doing lots of spring cleaning.

Phase II was made possible by the RDA. The Authority provided a grant of \$3,000 to purchase magazine racks and new furniture

for the creation of the popular comfort zones. New carpeting also was installed, replacing the old floor covering that was a cast-off from an area funeral home.

"That's what we had for a long time. It didn't look bad. It served its purpose," said Miller.

For the final phase, the back section of the building has been turned into a community room. One would have to see what the area looked like *before* in order to truly appreciate the transformation, according to Lois Havenhill, who served as a librarian in Princeton for many years until her retirement in '94.

**PRINCETON**

*please turn to page 4*





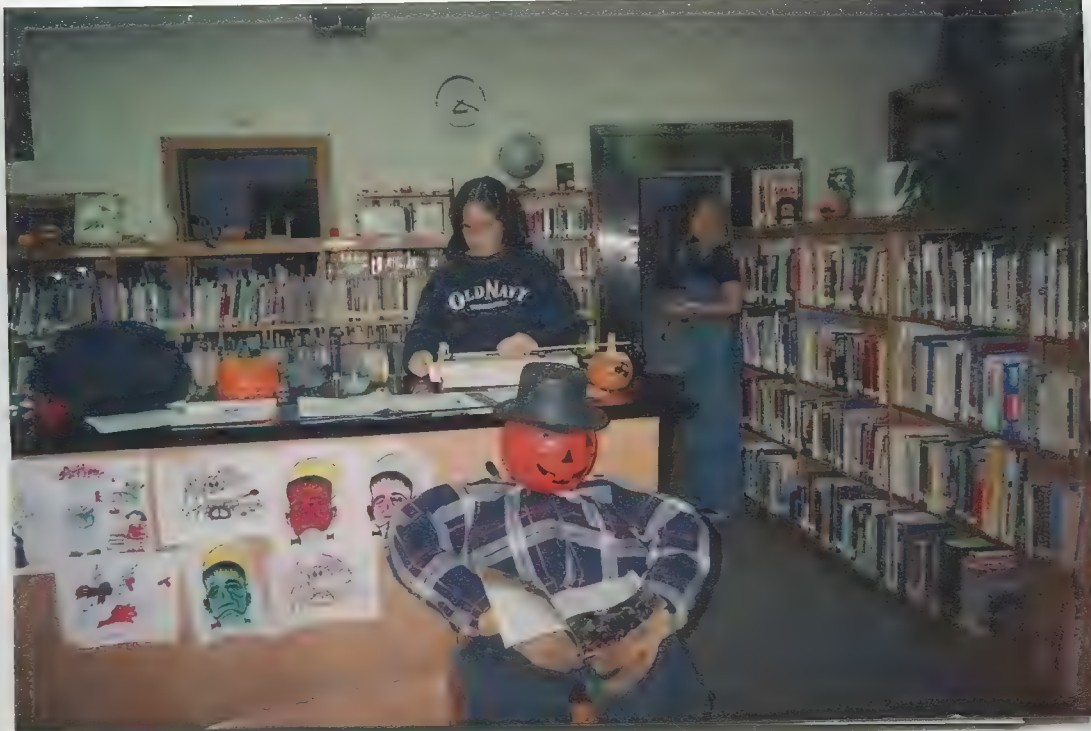












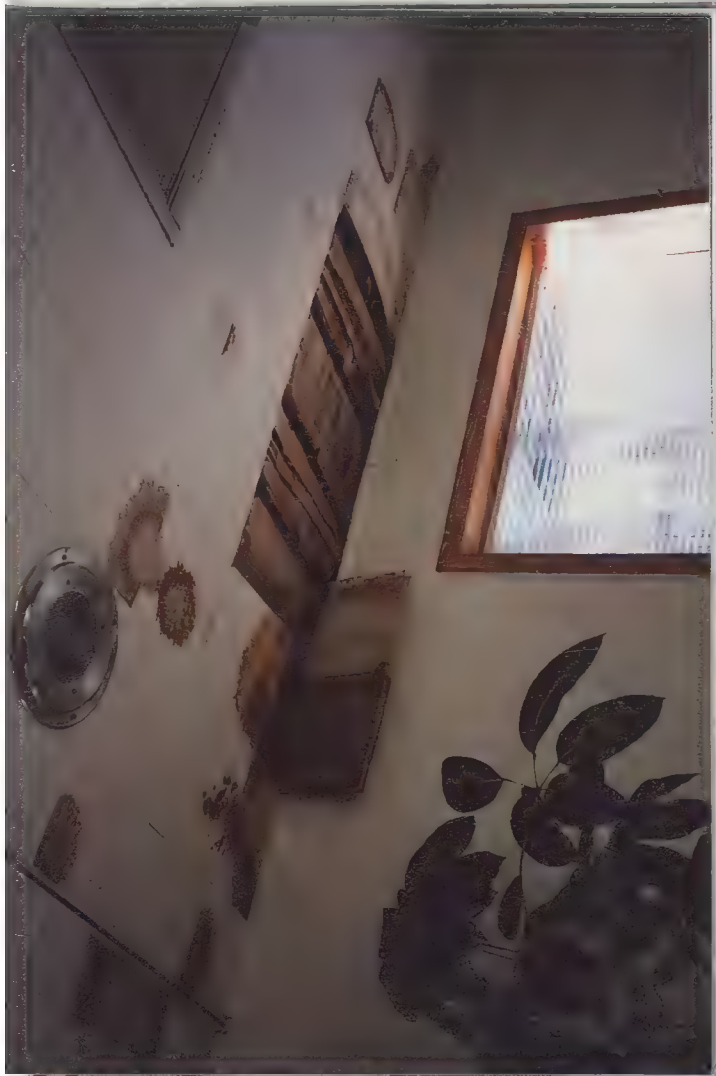












































**Children's Librarian** - Mara Wiggins of Princeton is the new Youth Services/Outreach Coordinator for the Scott County Library System. Wiggins, whose husband, John, is a Davenport Police officer, began her duties Oct. 5. NSP Photo by Barb Geerts

## Mara Wiggins gets kids fired up about reading

by Barb Geerts

Mara Wiggins knows she's found her niche as the new children's librarian at the Scott County Library in Eldridge.

"I just love the kids, and it's important to me to show them what's available here," says Wiggins, who joined the staff Oct. 5 as Youth Services/Outreach Coordinator. "When you connect kids with just the right book, it's just amazing. They discover (a particular children's series) for the first time and you see their eyes light up. They're so happy and so excited about it. I really love it."

Wiggins says a child's visit to the library should yield more than mere information. It should get kids fired up about reading. That's part of her role as children's librarian, she believes. "There's an amazing amount of (material) ... to develop their reading skills - not just for school, but reading for a hobby," she said.

Wiggins comes here from the Davenport Public Library, where she was employed for three years as a circulation clerk. She has also worked at the Palmer College of Chiropractic Library and the Lawton Public Library in Lawton, Okla.

Wiggins attended college at Mankato State University (Minnesota), and later transferred to Cameron University in Lawton, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in English. She is

currently enrolled at the University of Iowa, where she is working toward her master's degree in library and information science.

Wiggins and her husband, John, a Davenport police officer, moved from Oklahoma to Princeton 4 1/2 years ago. They purchased an historic, federal-style home which they are in the process of restoring, according to Mara.

"I believe it was built as the manse for the Presbyterian Church. It was built in 1856, and is supposed to be the second oldest house in Princeton. We work on that quite a bit. It's been a lot of fun."

Wiggins has a large garden with "lots of flowers," she says. "We seem to add a new flower bed every summer."

Another favorite hobby of hers is a given: She loves reading.

In addition to her duties as children's librarian, Wiggins also serves as outreach coordinator. "That's a part I'm less familiar with, but I'm learning. I've never worked for a system that has several branches," said Wiggins, who coordinates the transfer of collections around the county.

She hopes to build on the library's popular storytime sessions. "I'm really interested to look back and see what's been done in the past. I'd like to do a few more stories and maybe a paper craft along with them," said Wiggins.





# IOWA



## GOVERNORS

### TERRITORIAL

| Name          | Inaugural Year |
|---------------|----------------|
| Robert Lucas  | 1838           |
| John Chambers | 1841           |
| James Clark   | 1845           |

### STATE

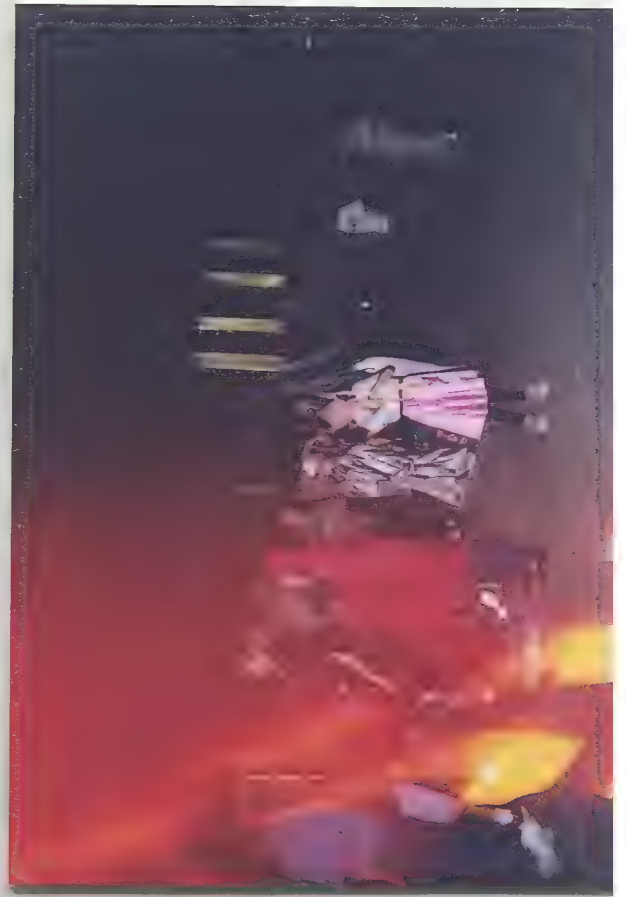
|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Ansel Briggs           | 1846 |
| Stephen Hempstead      | 1850 |
| James Wilson Grimes    | 1854 |
| Ralph P. Lowe          | 1858 |
| Samuel J. Kirkwood     | 1860 |
| William M. Stone       | 1864 |
| Samuel Merrill         | 1868 |
| Cyrus C. Carpenter     | 1872 |
| Samuel J. Kirkwood     | 1876 |
| Joshua G. Newbold      | 1877 |
| John H. Gear           | 1878 |
| Buren R. Sherman       | 1882 |
| William Larrabee       | 1886 |
| Horace Boies           | 1890 |
| Frank Darr Jackson     | 1894 |
| Francis M. Drake       | 1896 |
| Leslie M. Shaw         | 1898 |
| Albert B. Cummins      | 1902 |
| Warren Garst           | 1908 |
| Beryl F. Carroll       | 1909 |
| George W. Clarke       | 1913 |
| William L. Harding     | 1917 |
| Nathan E. Kendall      | 1921 |
| John Hammill           | 1925 |
| Daniel W. Turner       | 1931 |
| Clyde L. Herring       | 1933 |
| Nelson G. Kraschel     | 1937 |
| George A. Wilson       | 1939 |
| Bourke B. Hickenlooper | 1943 |
| Robert D. Blue         | 1945 |
| William S. Beardsley   | 1949 |
| Leo Elthon             | 1954 |
| Leo A. Hoegh           | 1955 |
| Herschel C. Loveless   | 1957 |
| Norman A. Erbe         | 1961 |
| Harold E. Hughes       | 1963 |
| Robert Fulton          | 1968 |
| Robert D. Ray          | 1969 |
| Terry E. Branstad      | 1983 |
| Thomas J. Vilsack      | 1999 |

*Thomas J. Vilsack*

















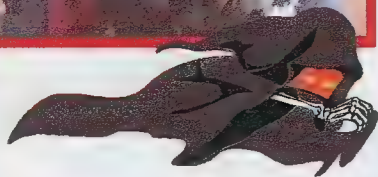
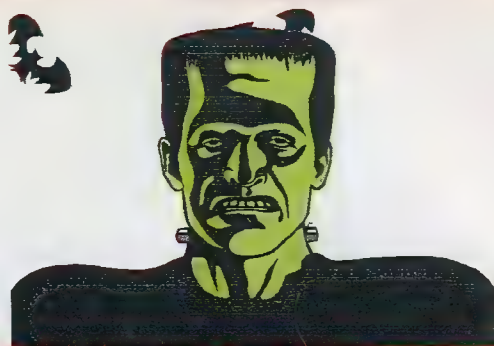












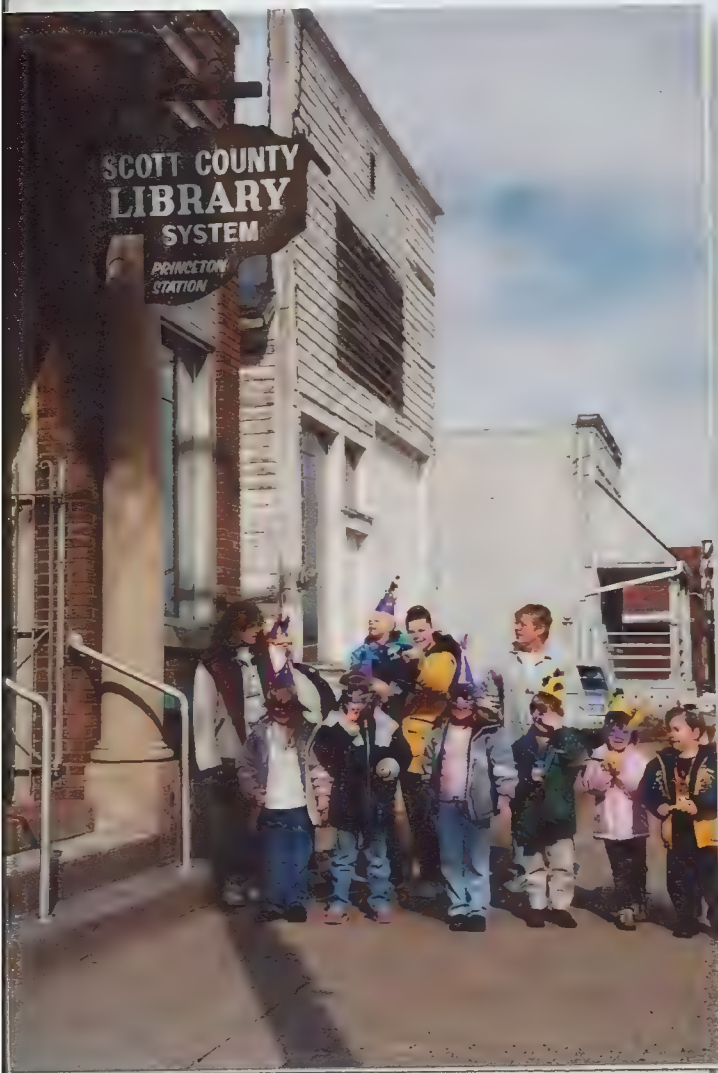












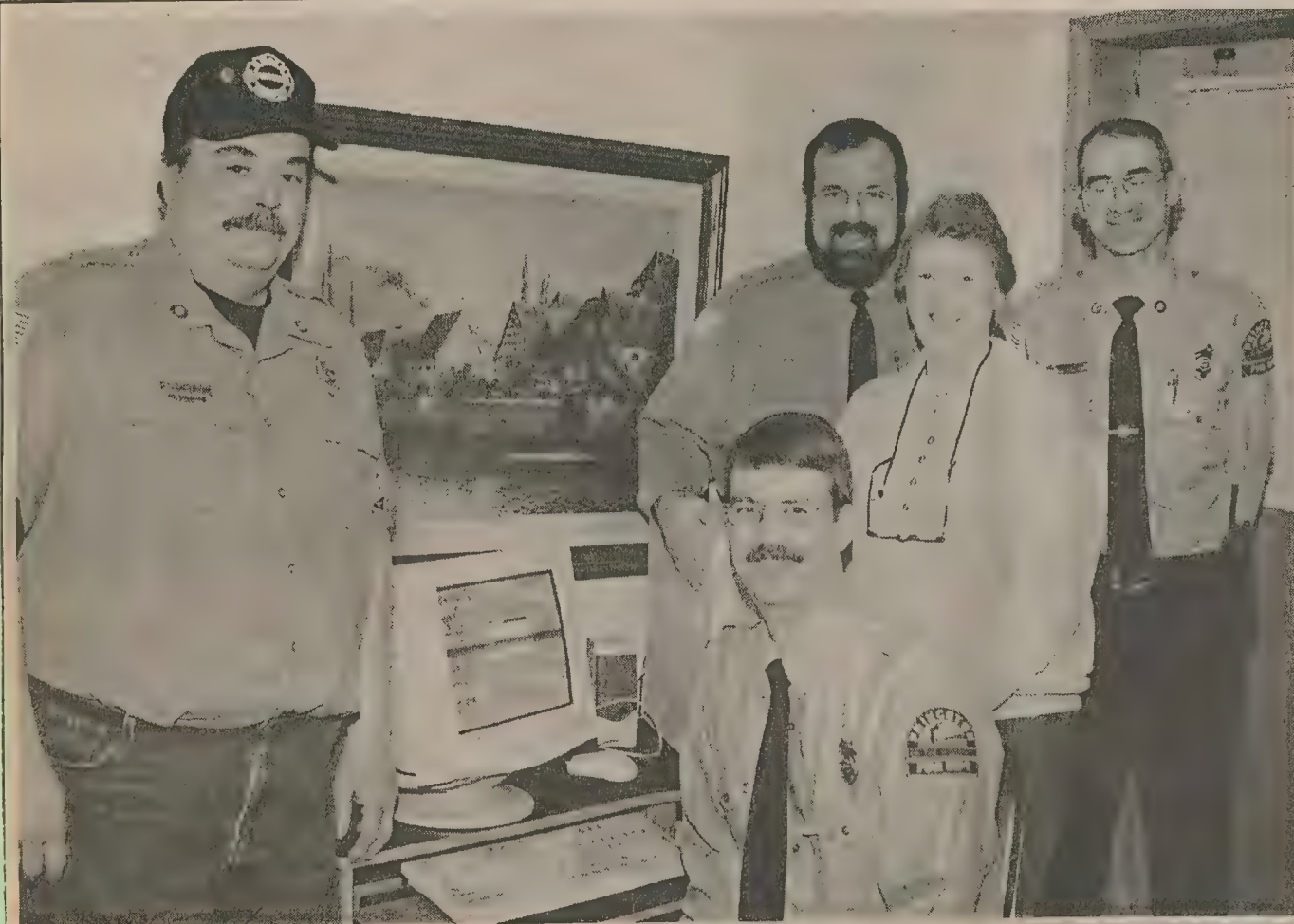












## *Princeton firefighters assist library*

The Princeton Fire Department recently donated their "retired" computer and printer set-up to the Friends of the Princeton Library for use by patrons and staff members. Pictured from left are PFD members Capt. Jon Rasler; Alan Shaw (seated); Mike Talbot; Lois Havenhill, ex-librarian of the branch and president of the Friends group; and Capt. Daniel Doyle.

NSP Photo by Barb Geerts

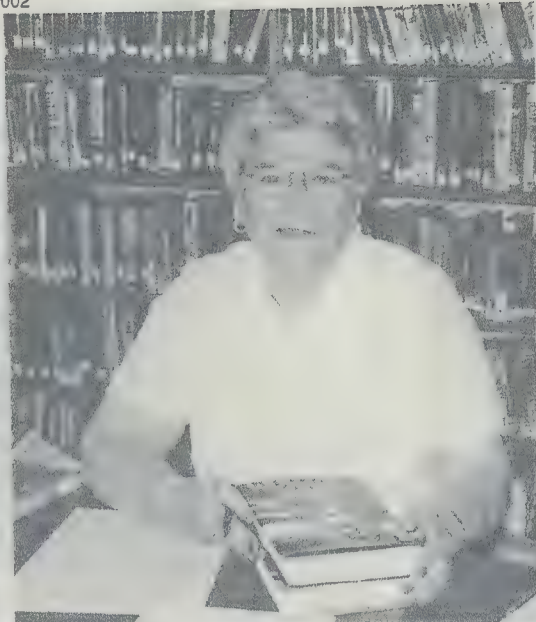








Cindy Mosier — Buffalo



Shirley VanVooren — New Liberty



Marjorie Bender — Park View

# Local librarians take a bow

## ■ Scott County Library System observes special week

By Barb Geerts  
NSP Staff Writer

Fifteen rural townships, 110 schools, and not a single library to serve them.

That just didn't add up for educator Edna Spies, a self-appointed bookmobile driver and a driving force behind the formation of the Scott County Library System.

Due in part to the groundwork she laid more than half a century ago, the library system now boasts 10 branch locations, a bookmobile + annual budget of \$721,500.

Since its establishment in 1950, the Scott County Library System has served thousands of patrons who otherwise would not have had access to the wide array of titles available through lending libraries.

More than 100,000 catalogued books are distributed throughout the county library system, according to Anne Conner, its director. Some 30,000 of those are housed at the headquarters in Eldridge, which serves as the clearinghouse for the library system.

Keeping collections "fresh" requires regular exchanges of materials between the branches, Conner says.

"It's very labor-intensive. It means thousands of books coming in and out of the headquarters building every week," she said. "Over the course of a yr, all collections in the other branch libraries are changed out

branch librarians submit a list of the numbers and types of books and other materials they would like to see on their shelves, based on what their patrons have been requesting.

A bar-code cataloguing system helps library employees keep track of each volume and its present location. If a book is not in the Scott County System, the staff can probably find it through Quad-LINC (Quad Cities Libraries in Cooperation), a system that connects 24 public and private libraries in the local bi-state area.

"If it's out there, we can get it for you," noted Conner, who has been with the system since 1988.

For library system officials, locating books is easy; finding a place to put them can be a real challenge, however. The current building, which has housed headquarters since 1962,

the option to purchase the structure at any time for the original price, minus any rental payments already made. That's a good deal for the library, which can delay the purchase until additional funding is available — without "losing" one dime on rental payments.

"They've been very supportive," Conner said of the city leaders. "We would be nowhere if the city hadn't stepped forward and made this possible."

### Rolling and reading

The move will be the next major step for the Scott County Library System, which has come a long way in its 52 years. The system actually originated as a not-for-profit bookmobile service begun by Edna Spies, the pres. of the Scott Co. Rural Teachers Assn.



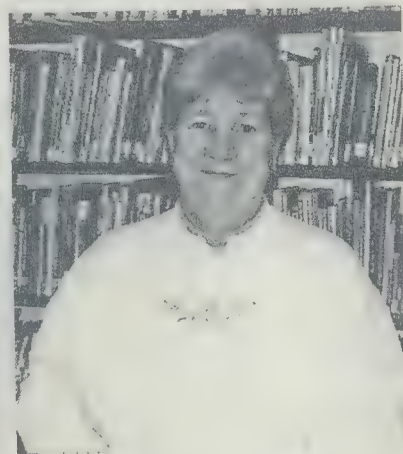
*This is National Library Week, a time to recognize the contributions of Edna Spies and all the others who have helped bring books to the masses, while also fostering a love of reading.*



Shelli Tague and Helen Edwards  
LeClaire

through our labor in Eldridge: Books are brought in and an equal number taken out to the branches. We have the books color-coded so they know how long they've been in the branch."

Conner said that prior to the exchanges, the



Betty Farrar — Durant

*is much too small to serve the ever growing*

number of patrons utilizing the rural library system. Presently, every nook and cranny is crammed with materials.

With an eye to the future, the Library Board voted a few years ago to purchase the former U.S. Post Office Building, with the idea of expanding into the adjacent facility. But the logistics of "marrying" the two structures would create considerable difficulties, they discovered. So when the former Slagle's building on East LeClaire Road became available, officials saw a ready solution to the space-crunch problem.

The new location will enable the system to expand its collection, provide more space for offices and community use, and offer easier access for patrons, officials say.

"We start (remodeling) this summer. The fund-raising is going very well and we fully expect it to continue," said Conner, adding that they hope to be moved into their new headquarters later this year.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$2.2 million, which includes the \$750,000 the city of Eldridge provided to purchase the vacant structure. The system has been renting the building from the city for a "nominal" \$400 per month, according to Conner, and has

"It started in the 1940s, when Edna Spies decided to address the problem of no library access — at all — to people who lived in the county. There was a Davenport Library, but if you didn't live in Davenport, you couldn't use it," Conner explained.

As an educator, Spies was well aware of the acute need for library services for students attending a plethora of one-room schoolhouses dotting this Midwestern farm county. She decided to do what she could to rectify the situation.

"Edna got her station wagon and filled it up with (donated) books and started going to schools," Conner said.

Other community members soon jumped on the (book) wagon, and the Scott County Bookmobile, Inc., was organized in June of 1947, according to historical records.

The organization launched a fund-raising effort to purchase a bus that could be converted into a bookmobile. Some \$15,000 was collected to buy the bus and fill it with books and audio-visual equipment. The project continued to receive support through gifts

## LIBRARY

*continued on page 13*



Penne Miller and Jo Damron — Princeton



Jim McConnell and Maggie Beesley — Bookmobile





Lorna Lillis — Long Grove



Debby Jacobs — Walcott



Michelle Clearman — Blue Grass

## Library: System has storied history

*continued from page 12A*

from individuals and businesses, school districts and organizations. Students even collected pennies to help out.

The "library on wheels" was dedicated Oct. 3, 1947, as a memorial to students, educators and servicemen from Scott County.

The local bookmobile backers weren't going to stop there, however. They successfully lobbied their state politicians to enact legislation enabling residents in unincorporated areas to establish their own libraries. Passed in the spring of 1948, the legislation established taxing districts for supporting rural libraries in areas where the voters approved such a measure through a referendum.





everybody outside of Davenport and Bettendorf voted to be part of that (new library district)," Conner said. "They wanted service here and they got it."

A Scott County Library Board, appointed by the County Board of Supervisors as per legislative guidelines, was established to oversee operations of the new library, scheduled to come into existence on Jan. 1, 1950.

The city of Eldridge was chosen for the site of the new system's headquarters because of its centralized location within the county. Miss Elizabeth Hage was appointed as the Scott County Library's first librarian, beginning her duties on Jan. 10, 1950.

A 25'x52' room in the Eckermann Implement building was remodeled to serve as the headquarters. It was not a true library, but rather was created for the purpose of servicing the bookmobile that had been acquired from Scott County Bookmobile.

The Scott County Library was officially launched in April of 1950 with 4,000 books and 643 registered patrons. A bookmobile schedule was established to service the 16 communities included in the newly created library taxing district.

New branches - then called stations - opened as communities could find available space.

"Originally, the Library Board said they would put a branch in a town if the town supplied the space and volunteers to watch the stations," Conner said.

#### Princeton banks on books

The system's first satellite station opened in the Princeton City Hall in July of 1950. It was later relocated to the Lund building and then to the former United Telephone office. It has been in its present location in the former Farmers Savings Bank building since 1987.

In September of 1950, the Blue Grass station opened in the second floor of the Blue Grass American Legion home. It was later moved to City Hall, where it was housed until a new facility was opened in 1987.

LeClaire joined the list of branch locations in 1951, establishing its facility in the James Ryan building. In 1963, the collection was

The staff of the Scott County Library System celebrated the first day of National Library Week on Monday with refreshments and a drawing. Shown at the Eldridge headquarters are, front (l-r): Connie Pewe, Maggie Collogan, Ann Mosher, Diane Hall, Sue Sissel, Karen Collins and Jalois Crotty. Back: Lloyd Keppy, Elaine Hein, Bernie Meredith, Anne Conner, Lorna Lillis, Debbie Noonan and Joan Hennigan.

NSP Photos by Scott Campbell, Tracy Dunn, Barb Geerts and Phil Roberts

moved to a former bait shop, and it relocated again in 1970 to the Harvey Phillips building.

In 1952, Walcott became the fourth town with a library branch, with book boosters setting up shop in the Warnecke warehouse. There were several more moves before the branch landed at its present location at 207 S. Main St. Staff members and volunteers are now in the process of expanding into an adjacent storefront, adding a third again as much space for the town's collection.

Other towns establishing branches included Buffalo (1962), Durant (1966), New Liberty (1968), Park View (1969), and Long Grove (1971). The latter got off to a soggy start when the building's water pipes froze and burst just two weeks after the station's opening, causing water damage to many books.

The SCLS also had a branch in Ridgeview from 1956 to 1960, at which time the area was annexed by the city of Davenport.

Durant and LeClaire both contract with the SCLS to provide services in those communities, the former because portions of the city are located outside Scott County and its special taxing district, and the latter because LeClaire received a sizable bequest, the terms of which require that the city maintain its own separate library. The fees the two branches pay to the SCLS for its library-lending services are based on a per-capita cost.

"They're exactly the same as any other branch. We provide the materials, the staffing; we pay rent. We provide the facilities - everything," Conner explained.

In addition to its headquarters and nine branches, the system continues to operate a bookmobile which serves the rural areas and towns where there are no branches, including Panorama Park, Riverdale, Dixon, McCausland, Donahue, Plainview, Big Rock and Maysville, according to Conner.

"That's only eight towns. The rest (of the

stops are) in housing developments or at a rural corner where people *know* we'll be," the director said, adding that the scheduled visits are much anticipated by rural patrons. "They're there waiting for us - *really*."

In addition to its revenue from taxes and fees, the Scott County Library System receives contributions through the Scott County Library Foundation and several "Friends of the Library" organizations that have been

established. The Friends groups help purchase special equipment and materials not provided for in the regular budget.

The Scott County Library System is constantly adding to its collection. Over the years, it has loaned art prints (discontinued due to space), video tapes, video disks, CDs, DVDs, and music and books on tape - in addition to the standard book offerings.

## Loyal library staffers...

By Barb Geerts  
NSP Staff Writer

The Scott County Library System serves a population of 29,000 located within approximately 370 square miles. Its registered borrowers have grown from 632 in 1950, when the system was first established, to more than 14,000 today, according to director Anne Conner.

This is National Library Week, a time to tip our hats to those who help make vast collections of books and other materials accessible to us, the public.

Here's a bit of information on some of the key people who keep the Scott County Library System operating smoothly.

Anne Conner, who has served as director since 1988, oversees the entire system, with its \$721,500 budget. She also makes the audio-visual purchases for the whole system.

Sue Sissel is the assistant director and head of adult services. Her duties include direct supervision of the Eldridge headquarters staff and selection of materials for adult patrons.

Debbie Noonan serves as children's librarian and outreach coordinator. She is the immediate supervisor of the bookmobile and the system's branch locations, and is the one who selects the children's materials.

As head of technical services, Jalois Crotty is responsible for cataloguing all the library materials, updating the computer listings when new purchases are made and deleting materials pulled from circulation.

Joan Hennigan is the circulation librarian in charge of issuing library cards and checking out books to patrons.

Elaine Hein, the system's reserve librarian, takes requests for special titles from the branches, determines their location, and gets them to the right branches.

Lorna Lillis is the interlibrary loan librarian. Her job is to check national listings and locate and borrow books not available within the county system or from area Quad-LINC collections. She also serves as Long Grove librarian.

Bernice Meredith rounds up the materials to be exchanged between the branches, and is the person the branch librarians contact for their supply needs.

Diane Hall handles the payroll for the system's 50 staff members and purchases supplies.

Maggie Beesley is the bookmobile librarian, and also handles the system's homebound delivery program. Jim McConnell is the bookmobile driver.







2001

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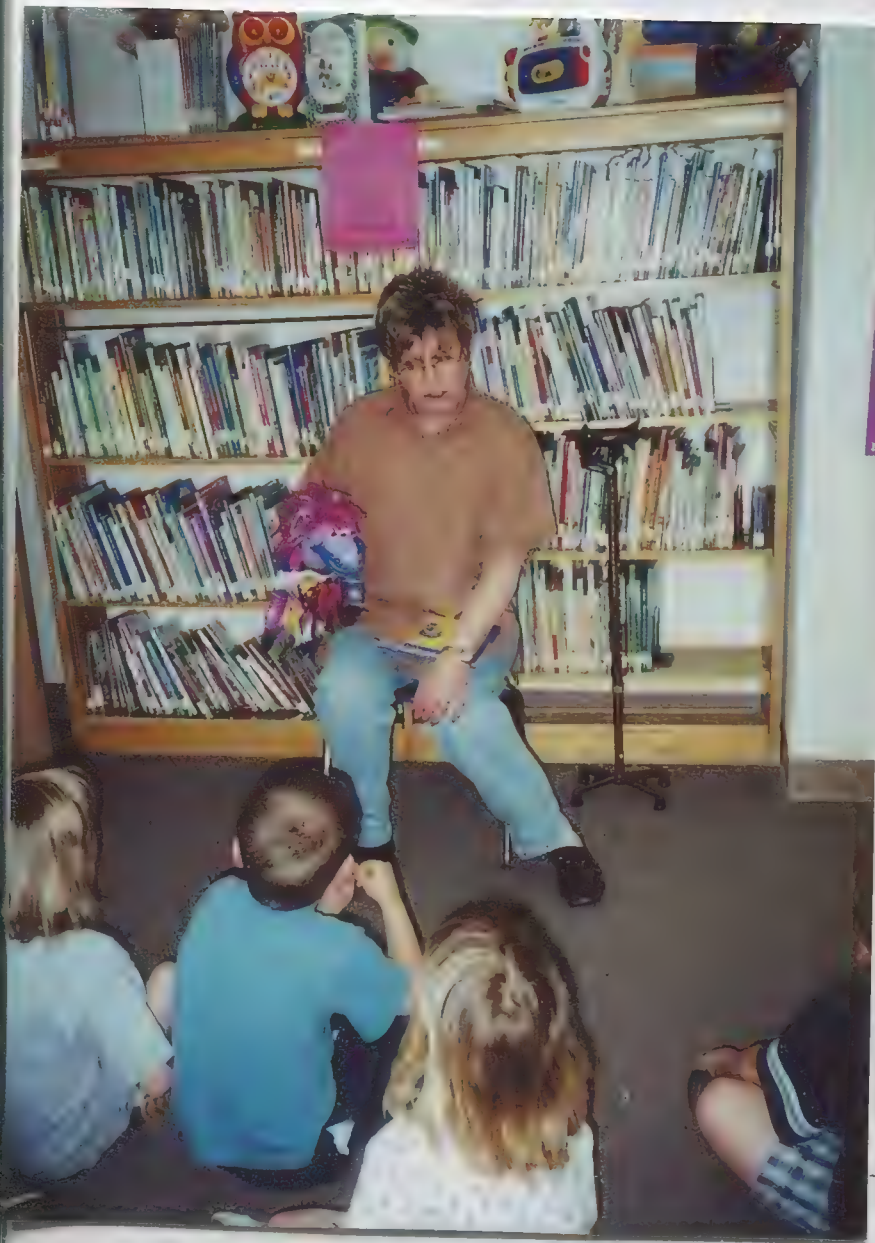


## *Covering the costs in Princeton*

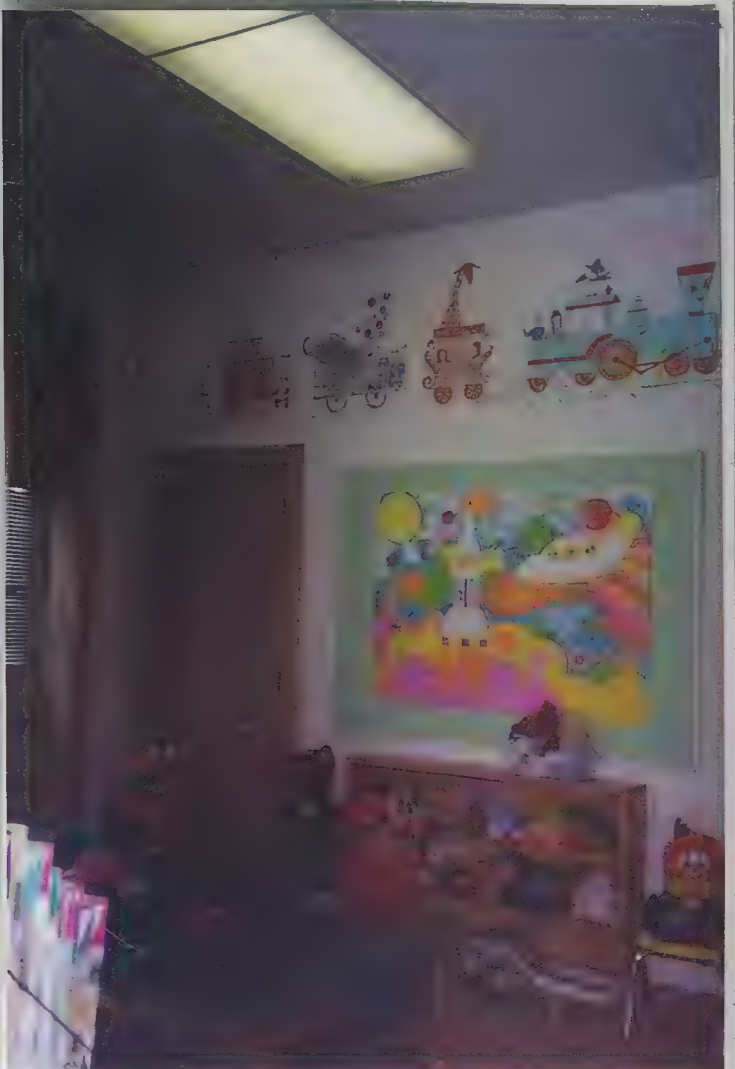
A \$1,500 pledge from a community-minded business translates into a new roof for the Princeton Branch of the Scott County Library. Steve Suiter (left), president of Great River Bank & Trust, recently presented a check to Princeton librarians Jo Damron (center) and Penne Miller (right) for the much-needed project. Also pictured are library patrons Brenda Rogers and Bob Blaze. The bank had previously donated the building — the bank's former quarters — for use as a library.

NSP Photo by Barb Geerts





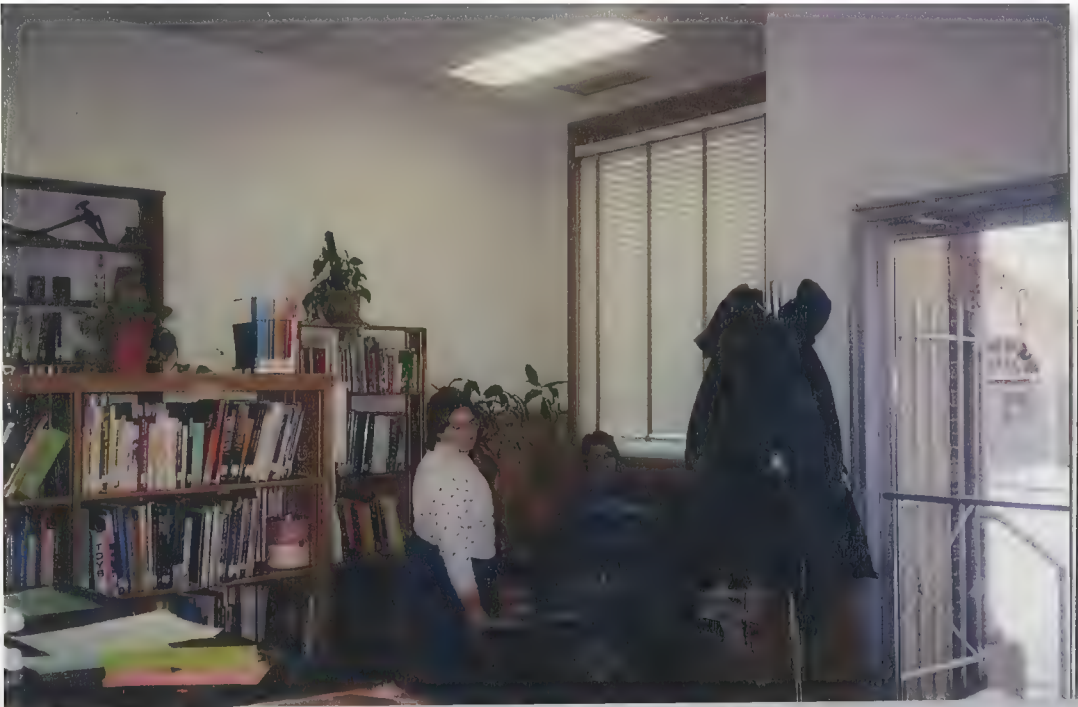








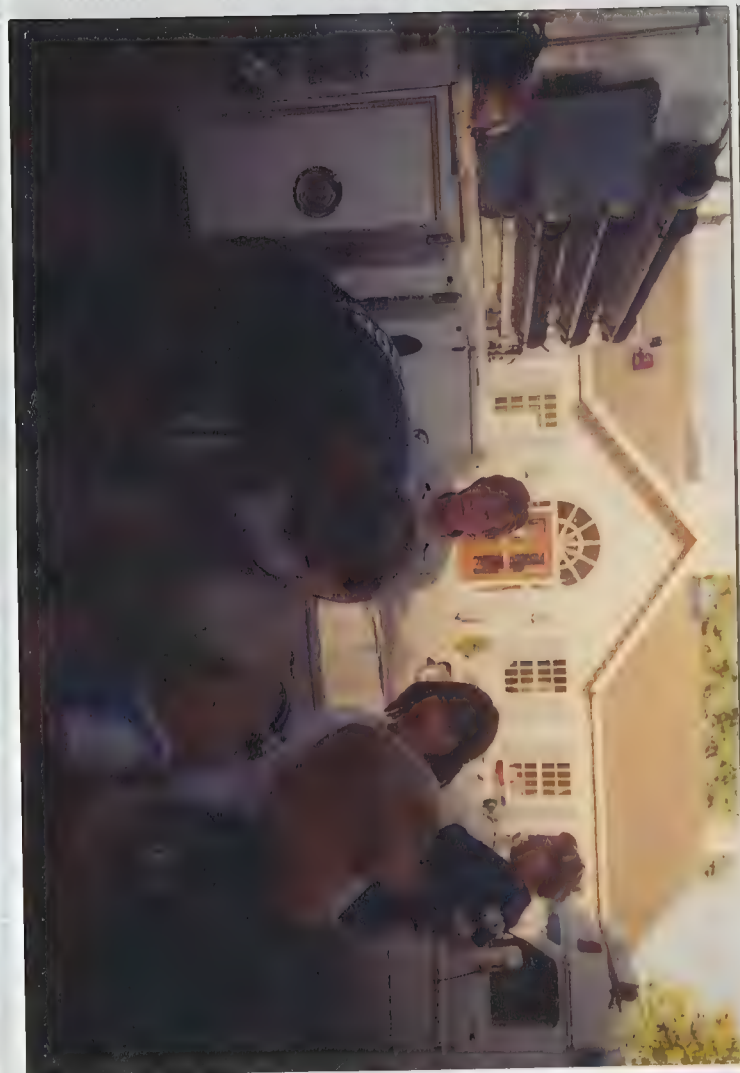
























JAN 200







**Library Takes Shape** - Jo Damron, librarian at the Princeton Library, helps a patron check out materials. With riverboat grant money and countless volunteer hours, the library has been undergoing a major overhaul to make the facility more inviting to area residents. Among the more recent improvements is the creation of a community room which is available for small gatherings. NSP Photos by Barb Geerts

# Princeton's 'comfort zone'

## ■ RDA grant, sweat turn historic building into public library

by Barb Geerts

Everyone has a comfort zone.

In Princeton, folks find that "zone" at the local library.

The branch of the Scott County Library System has added "comfort zones" — cozy nooks with comfy chairs and coffee tables — as part of what has been a lengthy process to convert the historic Farmers Savings Bank building into an inviting facility for both youths and adults.

With up to 700 people walking through the branch's doors each month, the project appears to be a success.

But it couldn't have happened without some dedicated volunteers — and some grant money from the Riverboat Development Authority, says Penne Miller, a Friends of the Princeton Library member and substitute librarian.

"There's a lot of 'sweat equity' that's gone into this," she noted.

The work was done in three phases. Phase I included installing a new furnace; putting on a new roof and doing some other exterior work; installing shelving; and doing lots of spring cleaning.

Phase II was made possible by the RDA. The Authority provided a grant of \$3,000 to purchase magazine racks and new furniture

for the creation of the popular comfort zones. New carpeting also was installed, replacing the old floor covering that was a cast-off from an area funeral home.

"That's what we had for a long time. It didn't look bad. It served its purpose," said Miller.

For the final phase, the back section of the building has been turned into a community room. One would have to see what the area looked like *before* in order to truly appreciate the transformation, according to Lois Havenhill, who served as a librarian in Princeton for many years until her retirement in '94.

## PRINCETON

please turn to page 4

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# Princeton: New facility sees increase in patrons

*continued from page 1*

"This old back area was nothing. We had moldy carpet. The walls were patched. We had to take a sledgehammer to open an old vault (now a storage room)," Havenhill said.

Volunteers fixed the holes, painted, installed carpet and put up new blinds. Most of the furnishings are on loan from Miller – rattan furniture which gives the place that "homey" feel. There's a kitchenette in the corner which makes it handy for serving refreshments.

In addition to the community room, a history room has been created to serve as a sort of archives for historical documents, as well as a display room for important pieces of Princeton's past. All the items have been donated by area residents, says Miller, who has been poring over the records and photos for a book she hopes to publish this year.

Other improvements and purchases will be made as money becomes available, says Miller.

She noted that members of the community have been very generous in their support of the branch. More than \$500 has been raised through bake sales and other Friends' functions, and folks have been dropping by, bearing "gifts."

"That's how we've done (the improvements). Somebody brought in a half gallon of

paint, and that's all I needed (for a painting project). If they have something extra, they bring it in," she said.

"It's a 'small town' thing."

The renovated library – which has three times the space of the previous branch quarters on Third Street – has been drawing plenty of new patrons. The number of people using the library has about doubled since Jo Damron came on as the branch's full-time librarian.

"This branch is only open 18 hours a week and in April, we had 701 people through the door. That's unbelievable," Damron said.

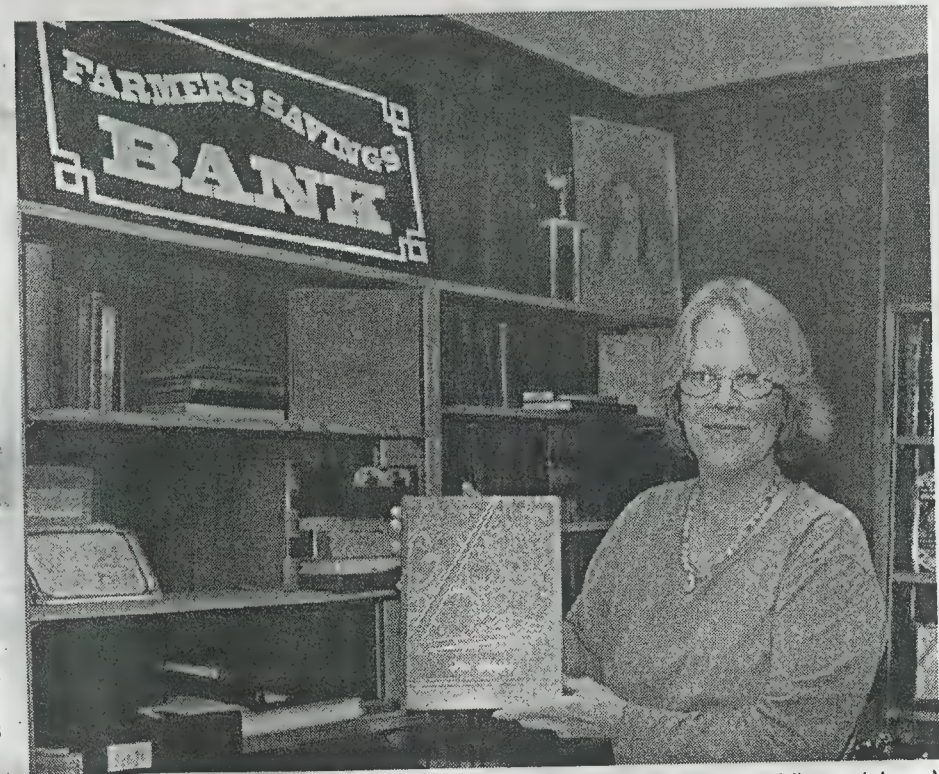
A good percentage of those are children. In fact, the library has become a favorite hangout for kids in this quaint river town.

And that's just fine with library officials and parents, alike.

"We really need a safe haven for the kids. We don't have anything available for the kids besides baseball," says Miller. "The kids come in and they play chess. We've done Friday night board games and the kids have snacks and pop."

"This is something that's really needed in town."

*(The Friends of the Princeton Library group is recruiting new members to support the facility and its programs. If you're interested in joining, please call Penne Miller at (319) 289-5666.)*



**Preserving History** - Penne Miller of the Friends of the Princeton Library (above) has been working to convert one room of the historic Farmers Savings Bank building – now home to the library – into archives for historical records from the local area. Below, Jason Sandberg (at left) and Philip Suiter square off in a game of chess in one of the new "comfort zones" at the library.

NSP Photos by Barb Geerts



## Digney, Gonzales graduate from Law Academy



## OPINIONS

# Scott County Library: It all started with a little girl's disappointment that she couldn't get books

Remarks by Beverly Mangravite of Moline, the daughter of library system founder Edna Spies, at the dedication of the Scott County Library Reading Garden, Sept. 24, 2005:

### By Beverly Mangravite

Some of you may know how the library got started but you may not know why it got started. Mom was born in 1905 in Davenport. However, she lived for a while on a farm near Cherokee, Iowa. When she was a little girl she was very sick for a long time and the doctor said she would never walk again. She loved to read and asked "Papa, please can I have some books to read?"

They were poor and books were expensive, but Grandpa Smith wanted his little girl to have some books to read, so he hitched up the horse and wagon and went to the town library in Cherokee to get some. But the town library would not let him have books as they were farm folks and only town folks could borrow books from the town library. So Grandpa Smith had to go back home without any books for his sick little girl.

She got out of bed and walked, and never forgot the disappointment about books, either. In the early 1940s when she was teaching in country schools in Scott County, she realized the same thing was happening to these children who lived on farms and in small towns — they had no library and they could not take books out of the Davenport library since they did not live in Davenport. Here was a problem that had to be fixed!

### More books, please!

So she started taking books with her in our old WWII Willys army jeep to some of the country schools — and the children asked for more books, please! She asked for donations of books and piled them in and made the rounds of the country schools. But that still was not enough for all the children and it certainly wasn't enough for her. She decided there had to be a way of getting books to all children in Scott County — and the seed for the Scott County Bookmobile was born.

She found other good Scott County folks who wanted their children to have books to read, and in 1947 the Scott County Bookmobile was organized. It was funded by donations — a nickel and a dime and a dollar bill at a time from farm families and small town families who could not afford to give a lot — times were tough and you watched every penny. But the donations kept coming, including from the children of Scott County.

I remember how Mom would smile when she would tell how when it was time to make a final payment on the used school bus they had bought to use as the bookmobile. There were thousands of pennies that Scott County school children had collected, and it took the auto dealer a long time to count them all!

That bus replaced the Willys Jeep. It had 1,500 books, a movie projector and screen and traveled to 110 schools in 15 townships



Edna Spies, 1905-1988

Deprived of books as a little girl, she was determined to do better for others

and also started making its regular rounds to all the little towns in Scott County. In spring, summer, winter and fall, children and adults would be waiting to listen for the Bookmobile's "toot" to let you know it was coming.

During the years Mom drove the bookmobile I would often ride with her. She was busy driving and I was busy pulling down all the books from the shelves because there were so many wonderful books — little books, big books, fat books, skinny books, picture books, word books. And it was my favorite babysitter! How could you compare having a bossy older sister or brothers telling you what to do when you could climb into the bookmobile and close the door and be with all those good books until Mom got home!

She had some favorite memories, too, from those times. I remember her coming home one night and telling how this little freckle-faced red-headed boy had asked her, "Mrs. Bookmobile Lady, I reckon I could read all these books overnight, but I'd need to stay overnight in the bookmobile to do it — can I?"

Or the time a farm family came to her as she was still driving the Willys jeep taking books around, and they had a small box of books they wanted to donate. It was every reading book they had in the house except for their Bible; the father said that was one book they couldn't give away, but their family had enjoyed these books and now they wanted someone else to have a chance to read them.

One time she was driving the bookmobile on a muddy road and it got stuck. A farmer was in a pasture nearby, and he climbed over the fence to come help. The first thing he said was "What's a young woman like you doing driving this big thing around by yourself?" And when she told him it was a bookmobile full of books, all he said was "Books, huh?" He helped her put some sticks and branches in front of the wheels, and then shouted to her, "Now gun it, lady!", and she did, and the

muddy bookmobile went on its way. And at one of stops the next week, the old farmer was there and said he just wanted to see all these 'dern books she was hauling around!

### Love of reading

Mom instilled a great love of reading in her children and I regularly blame her for my addiction to books. When I walk into a library it is like Christmas every day — every book is a present waiting to be unwrapped — you just don't know where to start and when to stop! Our childhood books were my very favorites. There was Tarzan of the Apes that I read curled up in an old stuffed chair in the hayloft, keeping quiet as a mouse as I heard my sister Darlene hollering, "Beverly, where are you, you have to dry the dishes!" There were the Lone Ranger books where you could feel yourself riding along with the masked man on his great horse Silver. There was Bambi with funny little Thumper the rabbit and Flower the skunk, and the Mother West Wind series with Blacky the Crow, and Granny Fox.

Who could forget the Little House on the Prairie series? Mom went to an educational meeting in Des Moines one year and the speaker was Laura Ingalls Wilder — the first thing Mom did when she got home was order the whole set of those wonderful books to add to the Bookmobile's collection! We all have our favorite books from our childhood, and today's children have their own favorites...

You never know what you'll find in a book. I was in an old secondhand bookstore in New York City in 1975 and found a 1942 book titled "The Early Days of Rock Island and Davenport." Mr. Burrows writes of traveling for three days by horseback through Scott County in 1840 to find someone to help his wife with the household and caring for their children; how he traveled through Le Claire and Pleasant Valley and other parts of the county with no luck and then someone sent him to visit the Heller Farm in little Walnut Grove to see if one of the Heller daughters could be hired. He described the farmhouse as the "coziest and neatest farmhouse he had yet seen in the Territory and that the floors shone like silver." The youngest daughter did go with him and stayed with his family for seven years. That Heller family was my mom's great-great grandparents who homesteaded near Dixon in 1837. Needless to say I sent the book to Mom and she was thrilled. And that book is a prize in my own books today.

### Pictures of school children

Mom loved her family, the children she taught, her country and history — and was always taking pictures. National and world events were very important to her. I remember her getting me out of bed around 4:00 a.m. on Oct. 5, 1957, to go out to the top of the hill in the west pasture because she was going to take pictures of Russia's first Sputnik as it passed overhead and she said it was important for me to see this, too. She photographed

another Sputnik on another morning when it was 5 below zero, and yes, I had to get up and go with her then, too! She also took pictures of just ordinary everyday life: threshing, baling hay, picking corn, baby animals, snowy pastures, floods, parades; because to her that was also history in the making. And always pictures of the children in the one-room school houses where she taught: Criswell, Delmar, Sand Hill, Allens Grove #5, Flower Valley, Maysville, Gilruth, and as she moved into the Calamus and North Scott School systems, always pictures of the children and their activities. So if any of you or your parents or your grandparents were ever taught by her, there is probably a picture somewhere in the pictures I am still sorting through!

After Mom died and I started going through the many many boxes of pictures, notes and genealogy papers she had collected over so many years, I found a little note very carefully folded between many other keepsakes children had given her during her teaching years. It was a handwritten note from a young boy in the seventh grade at Calamus School back in the 1960s. It was addressed to Nikita Krushchev in Russia, and it said, "Dear Mr. Krushchev, I would not at all be upset if you would drop a bomb on the Calamus School where Mrs. Spies teaches." She brought that note home and she and my father had a really good laugh over it before she carefully tucked it away as another memento from her teaching.

### Take a good book with you!

Today, computers and the internet have opened so many doors — education, entertainment, employment, culture, travel, medical help, anything you want, are all available so quickly — and that's wonderful.

But I wonder to myself as I hear some folks say that eventually all books should now be published on-line and we won't need to have libraries anymore as everything can now be seen on a computer. And I think of the magic and satisfaction of going to the library and picking out some books to read, brand new or already dog-eared from use, and climbing up a comfortable tree or sitting on the green grass in a park or on a friendly bench just like you have here in the Reading Garden, or curled up on your porch or in a comfortable old chair on a rainy afternoon and reading it — and escaping into your own imagination as you put your own colors and sounds to the words you are reading. I hope that magic will never be totally replaced by looking at a monitor.

And I see this wonderful new library and this lovely quiet place to enjoy, and I know Mom would really like this. So many folks with generous hearts and spirits have all helped to make this happen. And I'd like to think that she knows that this came about because a little sick farm girl wanted her Papa to bring her some books to read, and because she cared about the children of Scott County. And Mom would say to you as you leave today — don't forget to take a good book with you!





## *Reading Garden dedicated*

Beverly Mangravite, daughter of the late country teacher and community activist Edna Spies of Dixon, is pictured at the Reading Garden at the Scott County Library Headquarters in Eldridge. The Reading Garden was dedicated Saturday afternoon, "In Memory of Edna Spies, Who Created the Scott County Library For the Children." Also dedicated were a bike rack in memory of longtime administrative assistant Verda Shaw, and a bench in memory of bookmobile driver Royce Snyder. The origins of the library in 1947 are recounted by Mrs. Mangravite on page 18A.

NSP Photo by Bill Tubbs





THE CHILDREN WERE VERY ENJOYED BY THE ACTIVITIES AND THE ADULTS WERE VERY HELPFUL.

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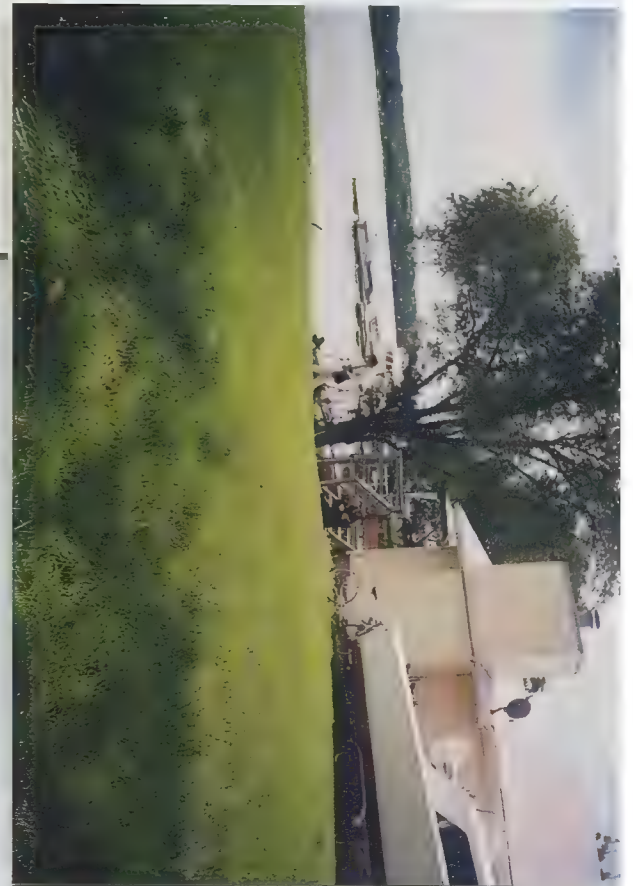
















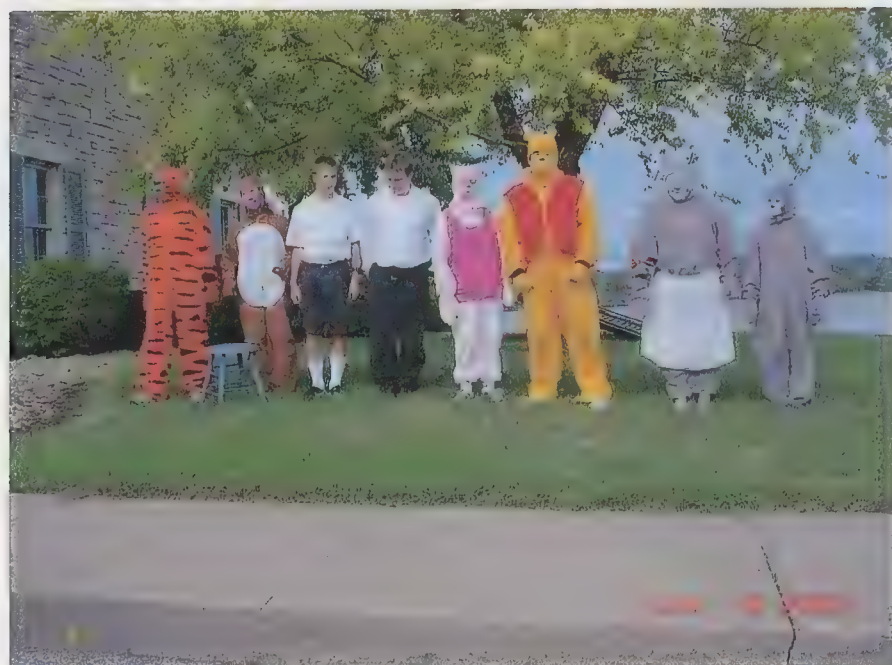




























## *Covering the costs in Princeton*

A \$1,500 pledge from a community-minded business translates into a new roof for the Princeton Branch of the Scott County Library. Steve Suiter (left), president of Great River Bank & Trust, recently presented a check to Princeton librarians Jo Damron (center) and Penne Miller (right) for the much-needed project. Also pictured are library patrons Brenda Rogers and Bob Blaze. The bank had previously donated the building — the bank's former quarters — for use as a library.

NSP Photo by Barb Geerts









































Children and adults standing outdoors near a blue car and a red fire truck.



Children and adults standing outdoors near a building.



Children and adults standing outdoors near a building.









































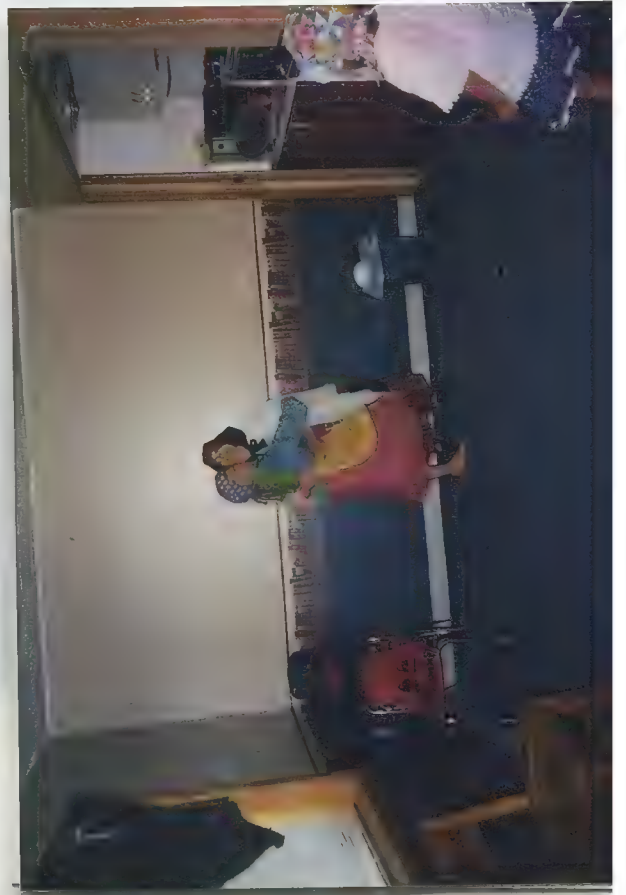














# A NEWSLETTER FOR PATRONS OF THE SCOTT COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Volume 6 • Issue 1  
February 2005

# Branching Out

## SCOTT COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

*"A library is the repository of our collective memory -- our history, our yesterdays, our news of the day and our tomorrows" - Virginia Hamilton*

### FRIENDS NEWS

The Friends of the Eldridge Library had a successful Christmas Bake/Craft sale in December. The visit with Santa is always popular, and this year we offered cookie decorating for the kids as well. Cookbook author Jim Hall was on hand to sign his two cookbooks that we have printed and are selling to benefit the library.

We are again sponsoring the Battle of the Books finals on February 26. This is a team competition between five North Scott elementaries answering questions from a selected list of books they have read. March 18-19 is our White Elephant sale. We will welcome your contributions anytime during the week of March 14. On April 6 we are sponsoring a bus trip to the International Quilt Festival in Rosemont, IL. Watch the library and the North Scott Press for details.

National Library Week is April 11-16, and celebration plans are underway. Be sure to stop in during the week to see what we are offering. Our Spring Book Sale is scheduled for May 6-10. This will be a larger than usual sale of both adult and juvenile titles. Be ready for some great book bargains!

We meet the fourth Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the First Amendment Room and welcome any Friends to attend. Have you renewed your Friends membership for 2005?

#### Friends of the Blue Grass Library

The Friends of the Blue Grass Library held an open house on December 21, 2004. We offered punch and cookies, played Christmas music, and had crafts for the kids to do. Twenty-five people showed up that night, and we added three new members of the Friends Club (FOBGL), which brings our total membership to nine. We raffled off a wreath and an elf boy that night. Congratulations to Betty Wilkerson for winning the elf and Eileen DePauw for winning the wreath.

A special thank you goes to Lisa Miller from Muscatine for her generous cash donation to FOBGL!

The Friends meet every second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in the library. We discuss things we would like the library to offer the community, as well as making plans for getting involved in Blue Grass Days this summer. The next meeting will be February 8, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. Please join us.



#### Current Board Members

Doug Morrell, President - Long Grove  
Shirley Berger - Pleasant Valley  
Arnold Christian - Blue Grass  
Jeni Criswell - Long Grove  
Robert Petersen - Walcott  
Joe Ragana - Donahue  
Annette Tank - Walcott  
Linda Tubbs - Eldridge  
Steven Billups - Princeton

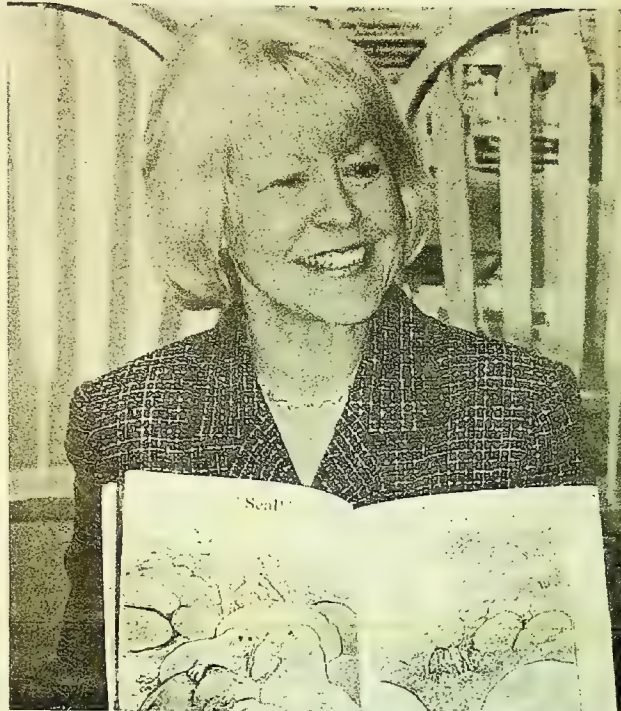
### NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Pam  
Collins

Welcome to the new look of Branching Out! We at the Scott County Library System are thrilled to be bringing so many exciting new features to an expanded readership. Inside these four pages you'll find information about us, our branches, and some of the exciting new features and programs we are bringing to our patrons in the Scott County area.

We're especially grateful to The North Scott Press for taking on the layout and printing of our newsletter. Look for a new edition of Branching Out every four months in your copy of The North Scott Press. We think it's a great partnership and we hope you like it too.



Iowa First Lady Christie Vilsack reads a book to young patrons of the Walcott Library on Friday, Jan. 28.

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS GROUP SCHEDULE

The Scott County Library is starting four book discussions, Classic, Contemporary Fiction, Nonfiction and Culinary Cabaret. You can pick and choose among the four groups or stick with one genre. All books may be reserved through the QuadLink Catalog or call Michelle Clearman at extension 229 to place a request. Book discussions will take place at the Eldridge Library.

#### Classic

Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

A Passage to India  
E.M. Forester  
March 9 - 11:00 a.m.

The Taming of the Shrew  
William Shakespeare  
April 6 - 11 a.m.

I, Robot  
Isaac Asimov  
May 4 - 11:00 a.m.

The Bell Jar  
Sylvia Plath  
June 8 - 11:00 a.m.

Gulliver's Travels  
Jonathan Swift  
July 6 - 11:00 a.m.

Contemporary Fiction  
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

The Jane Austin Book Club  
Karen Joy Fowler  
Feb. 28 - 7 p.m.

Angels & Demons  
Dan Brown  
March 28 - 7 p.m.  
- Guest Discussion Leader

The Master Butchers Singing Club  
Louise Erdrich  
April 25 - 7:00 p.m.

Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked  
Witch of the West  
Gregory Maguire  
May 23 - 7:00 p.m.

The Plot Against America: A Novel  
Phillip Roth  
Phillip Roth  
June 27 - 7:00 p.m.

Brick Lane: A Novel  
Monica Ali  
July 25 - 7:00 p.m.

Nonfiction  
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

1421: The Year China Discovered America  
Galvin Menzies  
March 14 - 7 p.m.

Confessions of a Tax Collector: One Man's  
Tour of Duty Inside the IRS  
Richard Yancey  
April 11 - 7:00 p.m.

The End of Oil: On the Edge of a Perilous  
New World  
Paul Roberts  
May 9 - 7:00 p.m.

Alexander Hamilton  
Ron Chernow  
June 13 - 7 p.m.

Beating Back the Devil: On the Front Lines  
with the Disease Detectives of the Epidemic  
Intelligence Service  
Maryn McKenna  
July 11 - 7:00 p.m.

Culinary Cabaret  
Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.

Cookoff: Recipe Fever in America  
Amy Sutherland  
Feb. 26 1:00 pm

Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate  
Underbelly of America  
Steve Almond  
March 26 - 1:00 p.m.

The Man Who Ate Everything  
Jeffrey Steingarten  
April 23, 2004

A Thousand Years Over a Hot Stove Year:  
A History of American Women Told  
Through Food, Recipes and Remembrances  
Laura Schenone  
May 21 - 1:00 p.m.

Life al Dente: Laughter and Love in an  
Italian-American Family  
Gina Cascone  
June 18 - 1:00 p.m.



## CLEAR THOUGHTS ON READING

By Michele D. Clearman

Though the month of January is now past us, it's not too late to decide on a New Year's Resolution. If you have thought about what your resolutions should be did 'make reading a hobby' make it to your list? If it didn't or even if it did don't just say, "I enjoy reading in my spare time." If you enjoy reading make it into a real hobby. Keep track of how many books you read. Write down who and what you like to escape to. Go a step farther and keep a journal of the plot and characters and your opinions of your favorite ones. Those that really spoke to you, those that made you think. Try reading all the books of one author, or several of a particular genre or join a book discussion group. The Scott County Library System will be offering four of these starting in February. Above all, though, only read that

which you enjoy. There are a number of possibilities when making reading into a real hobby.

One of the library's new services, one of our New Year's Resolutions, is to offer a Reader's Advisory Service. I am that service. You can find me at the Information Desk on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings. I hope to encourage you to read more, pick things that maybe you wouldn't necessarily read, or just talk to you about the wonderful stories that are out there. I hope to find what you WANT to read, suggest things that you MIGHT appeal to you and highlight those that I loved reading. I will be making this information available in the form of bookmarks, lists, booklets, signs and displays throughout the year. If there is something you would like me to find, please don't hesitate to ask.

## PRINCETON LIBRARY RENOVATIONS



As you can see by the photograph above the Princeton library is still under renovation. Rest assured that we are still open to serve you while the work continues.

## STAFF NEWS



Connie Youngers finds a permanent place in our Long Grove branch.

Connie Youngers, a long time branch substitute, is the new librarian at Long Grove. She takes the place of Clay Dawson. Clay left the Long Grove Branch to become the full-time Bookmobile Librarian.

## BUFFALO LIBRARY GROUP

Cindy Mosier, Buffalo Branch Librarian, has started a Library Club for children in grades 1-5. The Library Club meets on Thursdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The children are currently writing, illustrating

and publishing books about animals. Club members include Kirsten Harold, Brockton Frank, Samantha Goodrick, Samantha Rehard, Sydnee Collins, Alex Kauffman and Madison Campbell.



The Buffalo Library Club discusses their books. From left, Cindy Mosier, Samantha Goodrick, Brockton Frank, Samantha Rehard, Sydnee Collins, Kirsten Harold, Alex Kauffman and Madison Campbell.



Librarian Cindy Mosier listens to Samantha Rehard while Kirsten Harold (stripped shirt) Brockton Frank and Samantha Goodrick listen.

## LOCAL ARTISTS' WORK DISPLAYED IN ELDRIDGE

Stop in the Eldridge Library and view the works of two area artists. Charcoal drawings by Joni L. Kuehl-Schneider and pastels and watercolors by Don Heggen are hung throughout the library. The library will feature a variety of artists throughout the year. Artists

are selected by a committee of peers and an opening celebration will mark the beginning of each new show. If you would like to suggest an artist for inclusion please contact Helen Edwards at 563-285-4794 ext. 226.

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# BRANCH EVENTS

## INTERNATIONAL QUIRKYALONE DAY

Back a generation ago women (and men) suddenly had the social acceptance to drop out of society to be free spirits, hippies and flower children, burning their bras (not men) and fighting for equality. In recent news events women (and men) have felt free to return to being stay-at-home parents; nonetheless, there are still plenty of people out there who are uncoupled. Society sees uncoupled individuals as being wrong somehow, that they aren't complete without a mate. It's time that we recognize that an individual CAN be complete without a mate if s/he so chooses. These people, those that aren't opposed to relationships, but are particular about who they are in a relationship with are now being referred to as quirkyalone, rather than spinster, old maid or divorcee. However, whether a person is coupled or not doesn't mean that they can't celebrate their

individuality in a group, with their partner or ALONE.

How does one do this? Read the book QUIRKYALONE: A MANIFESTO FOR UNCOMPROMISING ROMANTICS by Sasha Cagen. Check out the website at this address, [www.quirkylone.net](http://www.quirkylone.net), by the same author to read the original essay and take the quirkyalone quiz to find out if you fit the definition. And finally, come to the Scott County Library System's celebration of International Quirkyalone Day at 6 p.m. Monday, February 14, 2005 at library headquarters in Eldridge. There will be booths for activities you can do alone, crafts, food, games and a ceremony to commit to yourself. So whether you're married, single or somewhere in between come join us and celebrate who you are.



## WINTER READING PROGRAM

Here at the Scott County Library System, one of our biggest New Year's resolutions was to begin a winter reading program for our patrons of all ages. We're pleased to announce that our first ever Winter Reading Program, "Reading in a Winter Wonderland," is ready for you beginning Tuesday, February 1.

There are two programs; one for children age 6 and under who are read to, and another for independent readers (this includes kids, teens and adults). There is no formal sign-up. Simply pick up a reading log sheet (one per person) from any Scott County Library System branch between February 1st and March 2nd, 2005.

All participants have until March 31st, 2005, to finish the program and turn in their reading logs at any branch of the Scott County Library System for a "Reading in a Winter Wonderland" prize. The rules for both independent and read-to-me programs are similar. Participants are required to read (or be read to)

Reading in a



Winter Wonderland

2005 Winter Reading Program With the Scott County Library System

anything of their choosing for 30 minutes per day for 30 days. There are 30 snowflakes on each reading log, and participants write each date that they read for 30 minutes on each snowflake. Longer time reading is allowed, but credit is only given for 30 minutes per day.

Readers (and listeners!) of all ages are welcome to participate in our winter reading event!

## 2ND ANNUAL BATTLE OF "NAPOLEON DYNAMITE" RAISES THE BOOKS TOURNAMENT MONEY FOR TSUNAMI RELIEF

Saturday, February 26th marks the second time teams of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students from five North Scott elementary schools will challenge each other for literary dominance (and a really big trophy) in a unique and exciting morning of authors, titles and tension! Will the students from Virgil Grissom Elementary defend their championship title? Or will another school's team prove superior?

Join us at 10:00 am in the First Amendment Room of the Scott County Library in Eldridge (200 N. 6th Ave.) to cheer on your favorite

team and see some awesome young readers show their stuff! Beverages will be provided. Schools participating in this year's tournament are: Alan Shepard Elementary (Long Grove), Edward White Elementary (Eldridge), John Glenn Elementary (Donahue), Neil Armstrong Elementary (Park View) and Virgil Grissom Elementary (Princeton). If you know a school who would like to participate in the 2006 tournament, call Debbie Noonan, BOB Tournament Coordinator, at (563) 285-4794, ext. 223 for information.

On February 12, the Eldridge Library will be the site of a Napoleon Dynamite Party for Tsunami relief. We will show the film, have snacks and related activities. A freewill donation will be taken and will go to the

Rotary Humanitarian Services Fund for Tsunami relief. The party is the brainchild of library pages Nick Odar and Jordan Roth and is for teen participants. Look for more information soon in the library.

## ELIZABETHAN ELDRIDGE COMING

Eldridge will be returning to Shakespearean times for a month this spring. This time travel is the result of a partnership between North Scott High School and the Scott County Library in Eldridge. Activities will begin with week of March 27 with the Chicago Shakespeare Company in residence at North Scott High March 30, 31 and April 1. Noted

Elizabeth I scholar, Carole Levine will speak on Elizabeth I and Shakespeare on April 2 at the Eldridge Library. Other activities at the library will include a high tea and a madrigal both featuring writers, composers and performers from North Scott High. More speakers and activities are in the works.

## KEPPYS PRESENT PROGRAM ON PRESERVING FAMILY MEMORIES

Annette Keppy Remsburg and Myrtle Keppy will be discussing "Preserving Family Memories" at a program at the Scott County Library in Eldridge on Saturday, February 5.

Rensburg, author of Rural Reality: Sixty Years of Family Farm Life, a biography based on the diaries of her mother Myrtle Keppy, will also have her book available for purchase and signing. The program begins at 10:00 a.m. in the First Amendment Room.



Myrtle Keppy

## QUAD-LINC CATALOG INSTRUCTION

Are you one of those people who miss the paper card catalog? Do you wonder how your friends renew their books online? Do you want to put a hold on that book you just heard discussed on The Today Show but know that by the time the library opens you will be busy and will forget to call? We can help.

The library staff is always glad to assist in using the online catalog, either at the library or by phone. Please don't hesitate to call if you run into a problem while using the catalog at home. But if you would like to make an appointment for individual instruction at the Eldridge branch on how to use the online catalog, please call Sue at 563-285-4794 ext. 233 to set up a time.

## SAVE THIS DATE

Join us on Saturday, June 4, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. for our "Books, Blues and Barbeque" summer reading program kickoff event. Fun for all ages!

## CALENDARS AVAILABLE

The Friends of the Eldridge Library have received a large quantity of 2005 calendars. We are selling them for \$1.00. They are great for gifts or scrapbooking. We have quite a variety—from animals, Elvis and I Love Lucy to barns and beaches and more! Stop by the Eldridge Library and browse through the selection.

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## KEISHA'S CORNER



by  
Keisha

### LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF

Hello, readers! I am so excited to have my own column in the Branching Out Newsletter. I have been suggesting it for years. I guess now that I am turning five the library feels I am responsible enough to contribute something.

I was a little disappointed when, once again, we had to spend the winter here in Iowa. I know I would fit in right with those snowbirds in Florida but I have to admit, I have had a wonderful winter so far. We started with the Friends Bake Sale and visit from Santa. I got

to sit on his lap and tell him what I wanted for Christmas. Even better, I got to watch all the children visit with Santa and decorate their own Christmas cookies. What fun that was!

Then I discovered that I had been featured in Cityscape, a magazine! Moi! The article is titled "Animals Bring Life to Small Community Libraries." There is a whole column on me with two pictures. They call me a "puppy" which I didn't like. Don't you hate it how just because you're small they think you're a baby. But the whole thing was wonderful. You can see the article at the library. My owner is so proud.

Finally, I had this lovely portrait done. Helen's granddaughter, Sarah Gless, drew this from a picture. I really am a lucky library dog.

For those of you who don't know me, let me give you a brief introduction. I am a five-year-old Maltese. I come to work at the Eldridge Library with my owner, Helen Edwards. I have a basket that sits on the circulation desk and you can find me there on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. I alternate Fridays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. I love to visit with library patrons, especially those who like to pet me. Stop by and introduce yourself and we can have a little chat.

## ROLLING YOUR WAY WITH BOOKS TODAY!

### BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE



### NEW TECHNOLOGY NOW AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKMOBILE

The Bookmobile is on line (wireless, yet)! Obviously, this makes it much easier to charge and discharge books. Most of the work can be done on the Bookmobile, without having to haul the books in and out of the main building. The new computer affords us access to the on-line catalog of the entire Prairie Area Library System, making the Bookmobile truly a 21st century library on wheels. A large percentage of the books have been exchanged, so we have many different choices for our patrons, and a constant influx of new material. Ned Marti, the driver, and Clay Dawson, the librarian, look forward to serving the patrons more effectively and efficiently during the coming year.

| MONDAY  |           | WEDNESDAY  |           | THURSDAY   |           |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| January 10, 24 • February 7, 21<br>March 7, 21 • April 4, 18<br>May 2, 16       |           | January 12, 26 • February 9, 23<br>March 9, 23 • April 6, 20<br>May 4, 18      |           | January 13, 27 • February 10, 24<br>March 10, 24 • April 7, 21<br>May 5, 19    |           |
| Park Ave (Panorama Park)  | 3:25-4:30 | 25866 250th St.  | 3:45-4:00 | Donahue  | 3:20-4:00 |
| Fenno Drive   | 3:50-4:05 | McCausland   | 4:15-4:35 | 28299 104th Avenue   | 4:20-4:35 |
| Manor Dr. (Circle Drive area)   | 4:15-4:30 | Country Estates  | 4:45-5:00 | Sherry Ann Estates   | 4:40-5:00 |
| Circle Drive (At Playground)  | 4:35-4:50 | Indian Hills   | 5:20-5:35 | Dixon  | 5:05-5:20 |
| So Kensington St (Riverdale)  | 4:55-5:05 | Lake Huntington (208th Ave)  | 5:40-5:50 | Big Rock   | 5:45-6:00 |
| 24764 179th St Place  | 5:40-5:55 | Lake Huntington (208th Ave)  | 5:55-6:10 | 5545 270th St.   | 6:10-6:25 |
| Meadows Circle  | 6:10-6:35 | South 27th Street  | 6:45-7:00 | Plainview  | 6:30-6:55 |
| Carriage Court  | 6:40-6:55 | Fellner's Addition   | 7:10-7:25 | Maysville  | 7:05-7:40 |
| Willow Stream   | 7:05-7:45 | Mt. Joy (209th St.)  | 7:35-7:50 |  |           |
| MONDAY  |           | WEDNESDAY  |           | THURSDAY   |           |
| January 3, 17, 31 • February 14, 28<br>March 14, 28 • April 11, 25<br>May 9, 23 |           | January 5, 19 • February 2, 16<br>March 2, 16, 30 • April 13, 27<br>May 11, 25 |           | January 6, 20 • February 3, 17<br>March 3, 17, 31 • April 14, 28<br>May 12, 26 |           |
| 40 Locust Court (Hickory Hills)   | 4:00-4:15 | Revelle's Addition (Mulberry Ln.)  | 3:30-5:30 | 24100 235th St.  | 4:00-4:15 |
| 36 Timberline Dr. (Hickory Hills)   | 4:25-4:35 | Timber Valley (2 stops)  | 4:00-4:25 | 220th St at 218th  | 4:25-4:40 |
| 14 Timberline Drive   | 4:40-4:55 | Rustic Oaks (2 stops)  | 4:35-5:00 | 212th & 235th Ave.   | 4:45-5:00 |
| 8 Oakwood Drive   | 5:00-5:15 | Timber Lake (120th St.)  | 5:05-5:20 | McCarty Creek (Hassler's Add'n.)   | 5:15-5:30 |
| Deerwood Drive  | 5:20-5:40 | Lake Canyana Mobile Home Park  | 5:50-6:05 | Collier's Addition   | 5:40-6:00 |
| Deer Valley (127 Street)  | 6:20-6:35 | Kruse Ave  | 6:10-6:25 | Trout Valley   | 6:45-7:05 |
| Forest Manor (#1)   | 6:45-7:00 | Telegrove Addition (#1)  | 6:30-6:50 | Van Villa Court  | 7:15-7:35 |
| Forest Manor (#2)   | 7:05-7:20 | Telegrove Addition (#2)  | 6:55-7:05 |  |           |
|   |           | Knollcrest (107 Avenue)  | 7:15-7:30 |  |           |

## LIBRARY HOURS

| Eldridge Library  |            | New Liberty Library                                     |            | Park View Library  |            |
|---|------------|---|------------|--|------------|
| 200 N. 6th Ave. - Eldridge - 52748<br>(563) 285-4794          |            | 501 Liberty St. - New Liberty - 52765<br>(563) 843-2456 |            | 5-D Lincoln Ave.<br>Park View (Eldridge) - 52748<br>(563) 285-7788 |            |
| Mon.-Thurs.   | 8:00-8:00  | Tues., Thurs., Fri.                                     | 3:00-6:00  | Tues.  | 3:00-7:00  |
| Fri.  | 8:00-4:30  | Sat.  | 8:00-12:00 | Wed.   | 9:00-1:00  |
| Sat.  | 9:30-4:30  |   |            | Thurs.   | 3:00-7:00  |
|   |            |   |            | Sat.   | 9:00-12:00 |
| Blue Grass Library  |            | Durant Library  |            | Princeton Library  |            |
| 114 N. Mississippi St. - Blue Grass - 52726<br>(563) 381-2868 |            | 402 6th St. - Durant - 52747<br>(563) 785-4725          |            | 328 River Dr. - Princeton - 52768<br>(563) 289-4282                |            |
| Tues.   | 3:00-7:00  | Mon.  | 2:00-7:00  | Mon.   | 9:00-12:00 |
| Wed.  | 9:00-1:00  | Wed.  | 2:00-7:00  | Tues.  | 3:00-7:00  |
| Thurs.  | 4:00-8:00  | Thurs.  | 9:00-12:00 | Thurs.   | 4:00-8:00  |
| Fri.  | 3:00-7:00  | Fri.  | 2:00-7:00  | Fri.   | 3:00-7:00  |
| Sat.  | 9:00-1:00  | Sat.  | 9:00-12:00 | Sat.   | 9:00-12:00 |
| Long Grove Library  |            | Walcott Library   |            | Buffalo Library  |            |
| 114 N. St. - Long Grove - 52756<br>(563) 285-5730             |            | 207 S. Main - Walcott - 52773<br>(563) 284-6612         |            | 326 4th St. - Buffalo - 52728<br>(563) 381-1797                    |            |
| Mon.  | 2:00-5:00  | Mon.  | 2:00-7:00  | Mon. & Thurs.  | 2:30-7:00  |
| Wed.  | 2:00-6:00  | Tues.   | 1:00-5:00  | Wed. & Sat.  | 9:00-12:00 |
| Thurs.  | 2:00-5:00  | Wed.  | 2:00-7:00  |  |            |
| Sat.  | 9:00-12:00 | Fri.  | 9:00-1:00  |  |            |
|   |            | Sat.  | 9:00-12:00 |  |            |

### Scott County Library System Foundation Board Members

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# Eldridge, police un

By Barb Geerts

NSP Staff Writer

Eldridge Mayor John Strazewski announced the results of arbitration involving the city and the Eldridge Public Safety Asso-

ciation at Monday's meeting of the Eldridge City Council. The Safety Association represents the city's six police officers, but not Chief Martin Stolmeier.

Strazewski said there were basically seven



## *Leprechaun fun in Princeton*

The Princeton branch of the Scott County Library System hosted its fourth annual Leprechaun Story Hour on Saturday, March 12 at the Great River Bank building. Seamus, the resident Leprechaun, apparently got discouraged with the remodeling at the Princeton library and hid his shamrock clues at the bank instead. Librarian Jo Damron, pictured with young readers, said patrons were relieved when Seamus left his first clue.

Contributed photo



2005?

Lucky Star Pre-school  
at Princeton Library













